Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-019
Friday
28 January 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-019 28 January 1994

CONTENTS

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Central Asian Defense Ministers' Meeting Previewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Jan]* 1
Defense Ministers End Meeting *[Radio Rossii]* 1
Black Sea Fleet Commander Against Fleet's 'Politicization' *[UNIAN]* 1
Russian Official To Visit Nagorno-Karabakh Front *[SNARK]* 1
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Jan 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kozyrev Continues Official Visit to PRC 3
Addresses Diplomacy Institute *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Proposes Island Development Zone *[Tokyo KYODO]* 4
Talks With Qian Qichen *[Moscow Radio]* 4
Discusses Visit by Jiang Zemin *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Hands Jiang Zemin Invitation *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Meets With Li Peng *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Holds News Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Further on News Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Deputy Minister Gromov's 'Puzzling' Presence in China *[IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]* 6
Trade Turnover With China Totals $7.68 Billion *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Ministry Denies Japanese Article on Secret Report *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Report 'Clear Provocation' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Jan]* 7
Report Says DPRK Has 'One or Two' Warheads *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 8
South Korea May Use Russian Weapons for Training *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
PRC, ROK Concerned About Patriot Deployment *[Moscow International]* 9
Commentary Discusses Deployment *[Moscow International]* 10
Foreign Ministry Praises Clinton's Address *[INTERFAX]* 10
CIA's 'Four Areas' of U.S. Interest in Russia Cited *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 27 Jan]* 10
Proposed Agreement With U.S. on Submarine Safety Recalled *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 10
Churkin Says Russia 'No Threat' to Baltics *[INTERFAX]* 11
Churkin: Use of 'Near Abroad' Cause of Misunderstandings *[Tallinn Radio]* 11
Shushkevich Ouster Costs Yeltsin Support of 'Reliable Ally' *[IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]* 12
Dismissal Must Not Affect Relations *[INTERFAX]* 12
Belarus Economic, Political Woes Presage Reunification *[SEGODNYA 28 Jan]* 13
Chernomyrdin Signs Cooperation Agreements With Italy *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Deputy Foreign Minister Cited on New Foreign Policy *[Rome TV]* 14
Spokesman Refutes Italian Newspaper's Quote of Chernomyrdin *[Radio Rossii]* 14
Western Group Commander Deplores German Press 'Falsehoods' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Jan]* 14
Tighter Rules on Passage Through Bosporus Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]* 15
Moscow Presses for UNSC Session on Bosnia in Geneva *[INTERFAX]* 15
Ground Forces Deputy Commander on Use of Force in FRY *[Radio Rossii]* 15
Zhirinovskiy Opposes Sanctions on Serbia, Libya, Iraq
[Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 27 Jan] 16

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Government Cuts Russian TV Funding by Half *[Russian TV]* 17
Officials Reject Report on Zhirinovskiy Talks *[Radio Rossii]* 17
Commander Denies Meeting Zhirinovskiy *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Group Taking Action Over Article *[Radio Rossii]* 18
Russia's Choice Warns Power Shifting to Premier *[INTERFAX]* 18

Dubinin Seen as Best Choice for Finance Minister *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 18
Lobov Tipped To Head Preside ·tial Body *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 19
Geraschenko: Yeltsin Determined To Pursue Reforms *[INTERFAX]* 19
Russia's Choice May Demand Vote of Confidence *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Kozyrev's Chances of Retaining Post Viewed *[Moscow Radio]* 20
Yeltsin Will Not Allow 'Backtrack From Reforms' *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Soskovets: Main Task To 'Bring Order' to Russia *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 21
Edict Issued on Regulating Commissions, Councils *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Yazov: Gorbachev Gave No Written Orders on Troops *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Doubts on Yazov Evidence Blow to SCSE Case *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 22
Popov Claims Post-August Reforms 'Rejected' *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
PRAVDA's Owner Denies Relations Severed *[Moscow Radio]* 23
Court's Revival 'Inconvenient' for Yeltsin *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 23
Party Conditions for Backing Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* 24

Economic Issues

Russia's 1993 Finances Prepared by Fedorov *[INTERFAX]* 25

Military & Space Issues

Air Force Commander Views 'Difficult' Year *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Jan]* 26
Military Counterintelligence Group Said in Works *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 27 Jan]* ... 27
Navy Chief Kasatonov Visits Baltic Fleet Bases *[Russian TV]* 28
Defense Committee Chief on Future Arms Exports *[SEGODNYA 27 Jan]* 28
'Progress M-21' Spacecraft Launched 28 Jan *[ITAR-TASS]* 28

Federal Assembly

Duma Declaration 'Challenge' to Yeltsin *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 27 Jan]* 28
Deputies Support Rutskoy, Khasbulatov Amnesty *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 29
Defense Official Meets Kokoshin, Stepashin *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 27 Jan]* 29
Defense Committee Chairman Yushenkov Interviewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 30

Regional Affairs

Sobchak: Problems Resolved During Yeltsin Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Government Seen Acquiescing to Tatarstan's Status *[SEGODNYA 28 Jan]* 31

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Navy Protests Black Sea Fleet Exercises *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Further on Navy's Protest *[UNIAN]* 32
Official Doubts Treaty Will Guarantee Security *[INTERFAX]* 32
Former Prime Minister Kuchma Views Disarmament Pact *[KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 22 Jan]* . 32
Army To Increase Peacekeeping Contingent in FRY *[Moscow TV]* 34

National Affairs

Kravchuk Not Likely To Interfere in Crimea 'Yet' *[UNIAR]* 34
Kravchuk Notes Limitations of Crimean President *[Kiev TV]* 34
Official: Crimean Law Must Comply With Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 34
Security of Crimea Following Elections Doubted *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Crimean Presidential Candidate Meets Reporters *[KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Jan]* 35
Crimean Candidate Refuses Debate With Rival *[Moscow Radio]* 36
Supreme Council Discusses Draft Socioeconomic Plan *[UNIAR]* 36
Deputies Vote on Plan *[UNIAN]* 37
Parliament Passes Privatization Resolution *[UNIAR]* 37
Parliament Resolution on Shipping Company *[UNIAR]* 38

Signing of Nuclear Treaty May Be Deferred *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Conventional Weapons Elimination Continues *[Kiev International]* 39
Army Fuel Shortage Reduces Personnel Training *[Moscow TV]* 39

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Presidium Nominates Candidates for Post of Speaker 40
TASS Reports Three Candidates *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Other Candidates for Chairman Post *[Minsk Radio]* 40
Candidates' Biographies Reported *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Shushkevich Absent From Current Parliament Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Prime Minister, Officials View Shushkevich Ouster 41
Kebich: Monetary Union Not To Be Affected *[Minsk Radio]* 41
Kravchanka Affirms 'Unchanged' Foreign Policy *[Minsk Radio]* 41
People's Deputies Express Opinions *[Minsk Radio]* 41
Officers Union Thanks Deputies for Ouster *[Minsk Radio]* 42
Titkin: Economic Policy To Remain the Same *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Expert Views Economic Relations With United States *[RESPUBLIKA 26 Jan]* 42
Center Refuses To Host Yegorov, Shirkovskiy News Conference *[BELAPAN]* 43

Moldova

Speaker: Unification With Romania 'Will Lead to War' *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Dniester Government Responds to Lebed Comments *[BASAPRESS]* 44
Talks on 14th Army Withdrawal Postponed *[BASAPRESS]* 44

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Ambassador in Iran Says Nuclear Weapons Will Be Kept *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
First Naval Base Planned Near Bautino *[IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]* 45

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Foresees Economic Independence With Russia's Help *[INTERFAX]* 45
Akayev Issues Appeal for Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Karabakh Fighting Shifting Toward Northern Front *[Yerevan Radio]* 46
Further Details on Fighting *[ARMENPRES]* 46
Azeri Occupation Claim Denied *[Yerevan Radio]* 46
No Extra Arms From Russia Shipped *[Yerevan Radio]* 46
Azerbaijani SU-25 Shot Down *[ARMENPRES]* 46
Firing of National Security Chief Viewed *[SEGODNYA 27 Jan]* 46

Azerbaijan

Ministry Says 200 Armenians Killed Near Goradiz *[Baku TV]* 47
Official Spells Out Terms for Settlement *[SEGODNYA 26 Jan]* 47

Georgia

Vote of No Confidence in Shevardnadze Expressed *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 48
Government Calls For UN Peacekeeping in Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
UNSC Allows More Observers To Go to Georgia *[Tbilisi Radio]* 48

Liberation Organization Demands Yeltsin Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Parliamentary Speaker Appoints Head of Staff *[Tbilisi Radio]* 49
Patsatsia Refutes Coup Accusations, Views Economy *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 21 Jan]* 49
Ideology Party Leader Echoes Zhirinovskiy *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 21 Jan]* 50

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Concerned Over Churkin Comments *[INTERFAX]* 52
Parliament Fails To Agree on Response to Kozyrev *[BNS]* 52
No Progress Reported in Preparations for Summit *[BNS]* 52
Chancellor Views Reactor Dismantling Conference *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 52
Meeting Held on Common Concerns With Latvia *[EESTI RINGVAADE 28 Jan]* 53
Prosecution of LDPR Representative Rozhok Sought *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 53
Finance Minister Named Representative to EBRD *[ETA NEWS RELEASE]* 53
1994 Plan Calls For Faster Privatization *[BNS]* 53
Second Consignment of Arms Received From Israel *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 27 Jan]* 53

Latvia

President Urges Referendum on Fate of Skrunda *[BNS]* 54
Cabinet May Resign if Budget Passed *[BNS]* 54
Paper Outlines Armed Forces' Current Strength *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Jan]* 54

Lithuania

President Signs 'Partnership for Peace' Pact *[BNS]* 54
Further on Signing *[Vilnius Radio]* 55
Januska Heads Development Program *[Vilnius Radio]* 56
Premier Wants To Meet Kebich; Views Change *[BNS]* 56
Premier on Growing Tension in Ties With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Seimas:'Harsher' Russian Statements 'Threat' to Peace *[TIESA 22 Jan]* 56
IMF Concerned About Inflation, Monetary Policy *[BNS]* 57
LDDP Member Views Relations With Poland *[TIESA 18 Jan]* 57
LDDP Faction Head on Ties With Opposition *[TIESA 7 Jan]* 58

Central Asian Defense Ministers' Meeting Previewed

PM2701154194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 1

[Anatoliy Ladin report: "Joining Forces in Regional Military Cooperation"]

[Text] The Kazakhstani, Uzbek, and Kyrgyz defense ministers are scheduled to meet in Bishkek 27 January, where the heads of the three states' military departments will discuss the possibility of jointly tackling military problems and the immediate prospects for cooperation.

It will in particular be a question of the sides exchanging certain surplus pieces of hardware, spare parts, and other material and raw-material resources. Questions pertaining to the joint use of the former Fifth Central Aviation Cadre Refresher Training Course base will probably also be broached during the negotiating process.

Defense Ministers End Meeting

LD2801103694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] A two-day meeting of the defense ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan ended in Bishkek today. As ITAR-TASS reports, the coordination of air defense systems, mutual supplies of technology, and scientific research work were among the questions discussed. During the meeting between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan [as heard], a protocol on military cooperation in 1994 was signed.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Against Fleet's 'Politicization'

LD2701235794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Sevastopol—27 January marks one year since Admiral Eduard Baltin was appointed to the post of Black Sea Fleet [BSF] commander. In an interview for a UNIAN correspondent on the occasion of this date the BSF commander said that he comes out against the fleet's politicization. According to the admiral, despite a number of agreements reached by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, the status of the fleet remains suspended thus giving rise to problems as far as the material basis and the personnel are concerned. Eduard Baltin pointed out that the preservation of the Black Sea Fleet as a combat unit and an outpost on the borders of the Commonwealth countries are regarded by him as a priority at the present stage. The BSF commander is anxiously waiting for the heads of the two states to find a solution acceptable to both sides.

Russian Official To Visit Nagorno-Karabakh Front

NC2701213494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1331 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Yerevan, January 27 (SNARK)—Tomorrow Vladimir Kazimirov, the ambassador for special missions and the special envoy of Russian president, will leave for the zone of Karabakh conflict. SNARK was informed about it by diplomatic sources.

It is supposed that he will visit Yerevan, Baku, Stepanakert where he will meet with the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Karabakh and will discuss Moscow's new plan of peaceful settlement of the region conflict.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Jan

LD2801072794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0656 GMT 28 Jan 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 28 (ITAR-TASS)—Leading Russian newspapers continue to focus on the resignation of Belarusian parliament speaker Stanislav Shushkevich. The NEZAVISMAYA GAZETA newspaper notes that legislators voted down Shushkevich because they blamed him for splitting "the democratic movement in the republic".

He has not created either his party or a group in parliament over 18 months' work as speaker, which would have supported him unconditionally. This has resulted in the present logical end," [no opening quotation marks as received] the newspaper notes.

Speaking of Shushkevich's activities as parliament speaker, the newspaper writes that he "tried to keep at least illusory balance in relations with Russia, on which the Belarusian ruling elite now seeks to impose the main responsibility for maintaining the economic status quo".

The TRUD newspaper has a different opinion on this event. It called the decision taken by the Belarusian legislature "a political drama of Stanislav Shushkevich". The newspaper reminds its readers in an article printed on the front page that "the formally proclaimed sovereignty of Belarus started assuming more real outlines" after Shushkevich became parliament speaker.

"The main event of that time for Belarus was to lend the declaration on state sovereignty the status of a constitutinal law which clearly recorded the republic's desire to become a law-governed democratic state with a developed market economy as well as a nuclear-free and neutral state," TRUD says.

However, TRUD continues, it became clear in the recent past that "the law was nothing but a political set in the performed play with sovereignty for the pro-communist parliamentary majority and bureaucracy which grabbed executive power at all levels".

Shushkevich's resignation took place "under the evident influence of changes in Russian politics, feeding the Belarusian political establishment with hopes for conservation of its own power," claims the newspaper.

TRUD predicts that the resignation will trigger a deeper political crisis in the republic and tougher administrative measures in the domestic policy, which will lead to "a drastic review of the course defined by the above declaration on state sovereignty".

The IZVESTIYA newspaper headlines its article on this event as follows: "Shushkevich's resignation is a revenge of opponents of reforms in Belarus and a gift to Yeltsin's opponents in Russia".

The newspaper quotes a statement by prominent writer Vasil Bykov who spoke about an onslaught of pro-Communist forces, while leader of the Belarusian People's Front Zenon Poznyak describes parliament's position as treacherous towards Belarusian national interests.

Claiming that the event was preceded by well-orchestrated preparations, Poznyak predicts the establishment of an authoritarian regime in Minsk.

Writing on the same event, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper notes that the latest developments in Belarus are logical, and the reasons for the resignation were caused, above all, by confrontation in the Belarusian parliament.

According to the newspaper, "the national democratic opposition which is in minority and supports Shushkevich, lost to the parliamentary majority backing Kebich who pursues a resolute course for rapprochement with Russia and represents pragmatists who are ready to waive some elements of illusory sovereignty for the sake of saving the republican economy".

The newspaper also publishes a refutation by Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, of an article in a Japanese weekly saying that Russia allegedly contributed to the implementation of North Korean missile-nuclear plans.

Kolesnikov said that the article was a crude fabrication.

Commenting on the appointment of Sergey Dubinin as acting finance minister, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA suggests that people may now "expect an improvement in the results of the ministry's work, since Dubinin will bring conceptual issues to cabinet meetings instead of newspaper articles".

The same newspaper features an article by Yuriy Skokov, chairman of the Russian Federation of Manufacturers (the federation includes the league of assistance to munitions factories, the Russian union of industrialists and entrepreneurs, the agrarian union, the union of work collectives, the Russian chamber of commerce and industry and the union of oil producers).

Asked by the newspaper about reasons for the recent drop in the rouble's rate, he said that "many financial problems have now become not a subject for professional solutions but a theme for speechifying politicos".

Besides, Skokov said, "we have no normal foreign political activities and do not have a clear understanding of what our currency is worth".

Kozyrev Continues Official Visit to PRC

Addresses Diplomacy Institute

LD2701144794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Spirin, Vladimir Fedoruk and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing January 27 TASS—"In shaping its foreign policy Russia proceeds from the strategic character of its good-neighbourly relations with the People's Republic of China. All the necessary prerequisites have been created in relations between the two states for ushering in a new stage of constructive partnership", Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Chinese political scientists at the People's Diplomacy Institute of China here today.

"Two 'continents' of modern civilisation—Russia and China—have firmly embarked upon the road of good-neighborliness and cooperation," he noted. "Traffic along this road was opened by President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to the People's Republic of China. Today, it is high time to consider the possibility of holding a second summit meeting, possibly already this year."

The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry formulated several principles of Russia's "Eastern policy", which proceeds from the growing importance of the region for the country's future. The Russian Federation maintains stable and balanced relations with all the nations, realising that the system of inter-state relations in the region, as in the world as a whole, has always been and will remain multi-polar.

The danger of major military conflicts is now lesser than ever since the end of the Second World War. "However, Kozyrev continued, there are quite significant sources of tension, not only inherited from the 'Cold War', but also engendered by new problems. They include the problem of access to the resources of the Pacific ocean, including the sea bottom, and several border disputes. The upswing of religious and nationalistic extremism has found dramatic expression in Afghanistan, and is now threatening Tajikistan." [quotation marks as received]

"If we fail to resolve these problems in Asia by joint efforts, we shall be risking to get a very 'explosive mixture', indeed," he added. "The most important question of all is the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile technologies. Such a turn of events is not in the interests of the security of the entire region, including Russia, China and India," the minister stressed.

"The economic role of the Asia-Pacific region, which already accounts for 60 per cent of the world's industrial output, will apparently grow even further. In this sense, the XXI century will doubtlessly be known as the 'Pacific age'. This growth of national might will not pose a threat to neighbours, but on the contrary, will create conditions for economic growth. In Asia, as in other parts of the world, economic progress contributes to progress in ensuring man's basic rights and liberties," Kozyrev stated.

Touching on the phased formation of a joint security system, the minister noted that Russia moves to set up a centre for preventing conflicts, to found a regional institute for scientific research in this domain.

At the same time, Kozyrev moved to draw up principles for weapons trade in the Asia-Pacific region, based on recommendations of the U.N. Security Council. Moreover, the Russian foreign minister believes that it is necessary to rule out attempts to interfere with normal commercial deals on the armaments market under trumped up excuses.

Kozyrev believes that both countries could jointly make an important contribution to regional security and cooperation. Guided by its policy of good-neighborly relations with the People's Republic of China, Russia remains fully dedicated to the principles of the Declaration on the Principles of Mutual Relations, signed at summit level at the end of 1992. This includes the entire complex of commitments assumed by both sides not to use force against each other in any form whatsoever, including the commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. This is in line with the spirit and defensive nature of Russia's new military doctrine," Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev noted with satisfaction the Russo-Chinese cooperation in the U.N. Security Council. However, he said that peacekeeping and the implementation of peacekeeping operations remained among the most acute problems. He especially noted that Russia, together with other CIS nations, was now engaged in a peacekeeping operation in Tajikistan, "the purpose of which is to check the expansion of instability in this important region, which is close to China, too". Kozyrev expressed the hope that Russia would get more "comprehensive assistance" from the United Nations, the CSCE, and other international organisations. "This would be a better solution than the groundless statements on Russian neo-imperialism, made from time to time in the West," the minister stressed.

The two states, as permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, are also called upon to help solve the problem of nuclear weapon on the Korean peninsula on the basis of guarantees from the International Atomic Energy Agency," the minister added.

Turning to economic cooperation with China, Kozyrev called for its "qualitative development". He exressed Russia's readiness to take part in large-scale projects on the territory of China, including the construction of the world's largest "three gorges" hydraulic power complex and in the modernisation of Chinese plants, built with the help of the former Soviet Union.

"It is absurd for Russia to counterpoise the 'Western' European and 'Eastern' Asian directions of its foreign policy. China has always been and will remain a reliable and good partner in the system of Russian global interests," Kozyrev stressed.

Proposes Island Development Zone

OW2701134894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 27 KYODO--Russia has proposed a joint economic development zone with China on a disputed island on the Amur River that forms the border between the two countries, a high ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official said Thursday [27 January].

The official told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev presented the proposal to his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen when the two met in Beijing the same day.

The official said Kozyrev suggested establishing the zone on Greater Ussuri Island, known in Chinese as Heixiazi Island. The Amur river is known as the Heilong river in Chinese.

If the Chinese side agrees to the proposal, it could serve as a "model" for resolving a border dispute between Japan and Russia over four islands to the north of Japan, the official said.

The disputed islands are Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai islet group, all northeast of Hokkaido. They were seized from Japan by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

In 1991, China and Russia signed an agreement settling some of their differences over their common border in the east, but several portions remain in dispute, including islands in the Amur River, where Chinese and Soviet soldiers fought battles in 1969.

The official said Kozyrev and Jiang agreed that Chinese president Jiang Zemin will visit Moscow for the first time in either October or November this year.

The official said that prior to the visit, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will visit Beijing in May for talks with Chinese leaders, and Qian will then visit Moscow to finalize details of agreements to be signed during Jiang's visit.

Talks With Qian Qichen

LD2701152294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] In Beijing today talks started between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. Our special correspondent Viktor Levin reports:

[Levin] As an official of the Russian Foreign Ministry announced, at a closed meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries there was a discussion of problems raised at the conference in Blagoveshchensk. There, the heads of administration posed rather acutely the question that during the regulation of border crossings and the normalization and regulation of contacts between the two countries one should not forget, and one cannot forget, that these links are of vital significance to the inhabitants of these regions. The regulation and settlement should not damage the normal commercial and economic relations between the border provinces of China and Russia.

There was also discussion of the situation on the Korean peninsula. We do not know what the ministers said specifically, but one can surmise since both sides are very concerned about the plans of the DPRK to manufacture nuclear arms. Russia and China's positions coincide. Such a gloomy prospect places both sides on their guard.

In my view, many of the cards that the diplomats are holding close to their chest, so to speak, were displayed by Andrey Kozyrev, himself speaking at the Chinese People's Diplomacy Institute. Speaking of cooperation by Russia and China in the Security Council, he said that there are practically no problems being discussed in that body of the United Nations on which Russia and China have insurmountable differences or confrontation. On all questions, the minister stressed, there exists a very high degree of mutual understanding.

In his speech at the People's Diplomacy Institute, Andrey Kozyrev also revealed the thesis of constructive partnership. He mentioned it during the talks and now from this speech one can draw definite conclusions. Above all, the Russian foreign minister said, we propose making new strides on the road to strengthening mutual trust and ensuring mutual security.

It must be said that China received guardedly the new Russian military doctrine in which the provision of non-first use of nuclear weaponry is absent. But to the Chinese side's questions a precise and clear answer was given.

In the declaration signed during the summit meeting in 1992, or to be more precise in December 1992, when Russian President Boris Yeltsin was in China, it was stressed that both sides renounced the first use of nuclear weaponry and the minister again stressed this principle.

Discusses Visit by Jiang Zemin

LD2701231994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1403 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Excerpts] Beijing, 27 Jan (ITAR-TASS)--Russia and China see the preservation and development of long term bilateral relations of good neighborliness, friendship, and mutually beneficial cooperation as the most important condition for their prosperity and stability

and a weighty factor in international security. This was emphasized at talks between the Russian and PRC foreign ministers that were held today at the Diaoyutai residence in Beijing for honored guests.

The heads of the two countries' foreign policy departments discussed a set of issues connected with preparations for a return visit to the Russian Federation by PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin. He is expected to arrive in Moscow for the second Russian-Chinese summit meeting in the third quarter of this year. The visit will be preceded by a trip to Beijing by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and a trip to Moscow by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

The coming Russian-Chinese summit meeting, Andrey Kozyrev said during the talks, is meant to raise relations between our two neighboring states to a new level, a level of constructive partnership. The development of Russian-Chinese links, he emphasized, is of priority importance in Russian foreign policy, which is not subject to any temporary variations.

China, the PRC foreign minister noted in turn, attaches great importance to dialogue and contacts between the leaders of the two countries, which promote deepened mutual understanding and trust.

The ministers stressed the importance of the set of mutual commitments by the sides not to use force against one another in any form, including not being first to use nuclear weapons. These fundamental accords were reached at the first Russian-Chinese summit meeting in December 1992.

After their talks the ministers signed an intergovernmental agreement about border crossing points between the two countries. The document specifies the legal and technical mechanism for the functioning of the crossing points and the procedure for their organization. These urgent matters, incidentally, were discussed at a regional conference of Far Eastern administration chiefs in Blagoveshchensk, in which Andrey Kozyrev took part, and during his meeting with the leadership of China's Heilongjiang province and the town of Heihe before his arrival in Beijing. So far there are 21 crossing points along the Russian-Chinese border. Last year over 2.5 million people crossed the border from both sides.

A protocol was also signed on regular consultations between the Russian and Chinese foreign ministries on matters of interest to the sides. [passage omitted]

In the evening Andrey Kozyrev took part in the presentation of a Russian art exhibition at the Russian Embassy in Beijing. Works by the well-known artist Tatyana Nazarenko are represented in the display. Examples of traditional national handicraft and Russian costume were presented by Leonora Gorbunova, general director of the Ivanovo history museums.

The Russian foreign minister will be received tomorrow by PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin and will have a meeting with PRC Prime Minister Li Peng. In the afternoon he will fly to the Shenzhen special economic zone in southern China.

Hands Jiang Zemin Invitation

LD2801052794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0400 GMT 28 Jan 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing, 28 Jan—"Our visit is taking place on the eve of the most popular holiday in China—Chunjie—the holiday of Spring. This is a good omen for the further development of Chinese- Russian relations," PRC President Jiang Zemin stated at the Zhongnanhai party and political residence today during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is here on an official visit.

The leader of the PRC said that he was glad about the meeting with the Russian minister and cited a Chinese proverb in this connection: "Meetings with old friends are a source of particular joy." Jiang Zemin recalled that during the visit to Beijing by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in December 1992, a conversation rich in content took place between the heads of the two states.

Andrey Kozyrev, for his part, noted that the Chinese and Russian new years are starting with confirmation of a course aimed at goodneighborliness and partnership, the foundations for which were laid during the visit to Beijing by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Kozyrev handed to Jiang Zemin a personal message from Boris Yeltsin containing an invitation to make an official visit to the Russian Federation.

Meets With Li Peng

LD2801035494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0230 GMT 28 Jan 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing, 28 Jan—This morning Li Peng, prime minister of the PRC State Council, received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is here on an official visit, at the Zhongnanhai party and government residence.

Greeting the Russian minister, Li Peng stressed that the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Beijing at the end of 1992 was an exceptionally successful one, that fruitful and business-like conversations on all aspects of Chinese-Russian relations took place. Ties between the PRC and Russia, Li Peng noted, are developing successfully on the basis of friendship, good-neighborliness and mutual advantage, in spite of the changes in the world and in our countries.

Andrey Kozyrev, in his turn, said that the purpose of his visit is not only to maintain the relations that currently

exist between the two countries, but also to further expand them, to come out on a new, higher level of development in relations. In this respect, he noted, we intend to discuss the forthcoming visit to Moscow by PRC President Jiang Zemin and other Chinese leaders.

The Russian minister conveyed very best wishes from the Russian president and his words that Russia does not intend to back down even a single step on reform, on foreign policy, a priority trend in which is the development of goodneighborliness and partnership with China.

Holds News Conference

LD2801070694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0545 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Oreshin, Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing, 28 Jan—The "constructive partnership" which Russia is offering its eastern neighbor China implies a new, qualitatively higher level of contacts and ties between the two states. This was stated in Beijing today by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at a news conference for Chinese and foreign journalists. Replying to a question put by the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Kozyrev explained: "We shall not forget that China and Russia are two great regional powers, in several regions simultaneously moreover, be it central, western, or southeast Asia, that our regional cooperation embraces half the world. Moreover both countries are global powers, permanent members of the UN Security Council.

In the economy, the minister continued, saying "constructive partnership" presupposes a transition to higher and more stable forms of cooperation. First and foremost this applies to cross border contacts in which, in the opinion of Andrey Kozyrev, "a change over must be made from petty commercial deals to long-term joint projects."

Summing up the working part of his visit to the PRC, the Russian minister noted that in conversations with PRC chairman Jiang Zemin, State Council Premier Li Peng, and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, a mutual striving to develop cooperation was confirmed, and "the strategic, long-term nature of bilateral mutual relations that is not subject to the vacillations of the state of the market, the foundations of which were laid during the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin."

"We have mapped out a program of mutual visits, the culmination of which should be a trip to Moscow by PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin," the Russian minister pointed out.

Further on News Conference

LD2801092094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Beijing January 28 TASS—The Russian and the Chinese sides engage in the work to delimit the border. The sides will disscuss the posibility of jointly using some islets so as not to cause damage by economic activity and not to create tension on the border. "An understanding on this matter has been reached in Beijing", Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, on a visit in China told a news conference on Friday.

Answering questions from Western correspondents, Kozyrev said that the military-technical cooperation with China is developing in the framework of goodneighbourliness and partnership.

"I have never denied the importance of military-techical cooperation. Quite the contrary, I have declared openly in China and in many other countries for the widening of this cooperation", the minister said.

Talk in the West about "Russian neoimperialism" distracts the attention from real problems connected with Russia's special role in the CIS and in the maintenance of stability in Eurasia, Kozyrev noted. There will be no changes in the course. The December elections and, what is the main thing, the adoption by nationwide voting of a new constitution have created an even more durable basis for the presidential foreign policy, he said.

Kozyrev said nuclear safety in the Korean peninsula was discussed at the negotiations in Beijing. The minister said the sides had very close positions, both being aware of the need to preserve the nuclear nonproliferation regime and treaty. Action in this area must be firm, balanced and cautious, he said.

"On my part, I noted that for Russia and China and for other countries of the region the problem of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, delivery vehicles and related missile technologies is a matter of safety. We are vitally interested that such armaments should not be brought into zones of conflict", Kozyrev said.

Regarding his forthcoming trip to the Shenzhen economic zone, Kozyrev said there is no need for blindly copying the experience of economic development of other countries.

Deputy Minister Gromov's 'Puzzling' Presence in China

PM2701200594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[Vladimir Skosyrev and Konstantin Eggert report: "General Gromov in Minister Kozyrev's Suite"]

[Excerpts] Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin may possibly visit the PRC soon.

This was announced at the conclusion of talks between Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen. [passage omitted]

The presence of Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov as member of the Russian delegation is somewhat puzzling. He took no part in the talks between the foreign ministers and, in his own words, had arrived "to take a look at China."

Trade Turnover With China Totals $7.68 Billion

LD2801073994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0715 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Oreshin]

[Text] Beijing January 28 TASS—Russian-Chinese trade is constantly expanding and the turnover totalled 7.68 billion US dollars in 1993 which is a 30 per cent increase compared to the previous year, according to Shi Guangsheng, Chinese deputy foreign trade and foreign economic cooperation minister.

He told a press conference on Friday [28 January] that Chinese exports to Russia grew by 15 per cent and amounted to 2.69 billion dollars while Russian imports increased by 41.4 per cent and totalled 4.99 billion dollars.

Currently 27,000 Chinese are working in Russia where there are 2,000 joint ventures in which the share of the Chinese capital totals 82 million dollars, according to the deputy minister.

Georgraphic advantages and similarity in economies will allow both countries to boost equal and profitable contacts, he added.

Wu Yi, Chinese foreign trade and foreign economic cooperation minister, stressed that in general the Chinese foreign trade turnover grew 18.2 per cent in 1993 and amounted to 195.72 billion dollars. Chinese imports went up by 29 per cent (103.95 billion dollars) and exports by eight per cent (91.77 billion dollars).

Ministry Denies Japanese Article on Secret Report

LD2701162094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin and Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan—The Information and Press Department of Russia's Defense Ministry today described an article in the Japanese weekly SHUKAN BUNSHUN as "utter fiction and a provocative fabrication." The article claimed the existence of a secret report entitled "The Military Policy of the Russian Federation Toward the Asian-Pacific Region in New Political Conditions." Extracts from the report were reprinted in several Russian publications, which cited SHUKAN BUNSHUN as the source.

The SHUKAN BUNSHUN report alleges that "the center for military-strategic analysis" of the General Staff of Russia's Ministry of Defense prepared a report, marked "especially secret," on the involvement of 160 Russian nuclear scientists in nuclear research in North Korea. It said that Russian specialists had helped to develop North Korean nuclear warheads and the medium-range Nodong-1 missile. Extracts from the report were supposed to have been forwarded to the U.S. Defense Department on 22 October 1993, under the serial number 001 SM-137, after it had been read by Boris Yeltsin and Pavel Grachev.

The Defense Ministry told ITAR-TASS that "there is no such center for military-strategic analysis." "There is a center for military-strategic research" but "not only did it not prepare such a report, it has never even heard of it." The Defense Ministry does not use serial numbers of the type mentioned in the article. It does not have the classification "especially secret." It uses "top secret" instead. The Information and Press Department describes this "sensation" as "totally concocted."

Report 'Clear Provocation'

PM2701184194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Observer Aleksandr Golts report on interview with Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; place and date of interview not given: "'General Staff Secret Report' in Fact Blatant Forgery. Chief of Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff Refutes Articles in Japanese Weekly and IZVESTIYA"]

[Text] The popular Japanese weekly SHUKAN BUNSHUN has published material which, if it were true, would cause an international sensation; the respected Russian newspaper IZVESTIYA has given a detailed account of this material. Citing a secret document from the Russian General Staff and an interview with an anonymous staffer from this organization, it is reported that Russia is allegedly assisting the implementation of North Korea's nuclear missile plans. Also, that our nuclear and rocket scientists have helped to develop the nuclear weapons [boyepripasy] which, it seems, the DPRK already possesses as well as the means to deliver these weapons. Moreover, it is claimed that, in the Russian military's assessment, the situation is so grave that the issue of establishing a joint system of ABM defense for Russia, Japan, and the United States needs to be addressed.

But it is probably no accident that neither the actual magazine nor IZVESTIYA has attempted to ascertain whether this document is genuine by making inquiries at its alleged source.

In reply to my question as to whether such a document really exists, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, answered: "The articles in the Japanese magazine and IZVESTIYA are based on a gross and obvious forgery. It is only to be regretted that such a respected newspaper has fallen

victim to forgers by publishing this material from its Japan correspondent Sergey Agafonov without any preliminary verification."

Indeed, it can only be conjectured why the photograph of the first page of the "document" was thought sufficient to remove all doubts as to the authenticity of the report. After all, it is unlikely that IZVESTIYA employs people specializing in the clerical work of the Ministry of Defense who would be able to distinguish a genuine document from a forgery. People who deal with office paperwork, however, are adamant that the Ministry of Defense never uses the kind of document serial numbers indicated in the article. But if this is the case, the ironic questions in the article addressed to the ministry and the General Staff are still left hanging in the air. After all, if no leaks took place, any hint that there is a little key which "opens General Staff safes for Japanese guests" is simply an insult.

However, other questions are now being raised. In particular, what was the point of publishing these unverified reports. Col. Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov believes that "we are talking about a clear provocation with the aim of casting aspersions on the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff." Can it be that someone actually wants to rekindle the antiarmy campaign of the past few years?

At the same time the chief of General Staff is not ruling out the possibility that this episode has played into the hands of those who want to complicate relations between Russia and North Korea.

Yes, the nuclear problems of the Korean peninsula are currently very acute. Russia is not hiding its alarm at the fact that the DPRK has suspended its participation in the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. At the same time, a ranking Russian diplomat stated recently, we believe that sanctions against the DPRK—on which some countries are insisting—should be used only as a last resort, but there are those who would prefer to replace the complex process of negotiations with open pressure on Pyongyang. And is it not currently in their interests to make it seem as if Russia is to blame for the fact that the DPRK has allegedly acquired nuclear weapons?

Report Says DPRK Has 'One or Two' Warheads

PM2701172194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 94 First Edition pp 1, 4

[Sergey Agafonov report: "A Total of 160 Russian Nuclear Scientists and Missilemen Helped North Korea To Create a Nuclear Bomb. The Japanese Have Learned This from a Secret Report by the Russian General Staff"]

[Text] Tokyo—The Japanese weekly SHUKAN BUNSHUN carries a detailed account of a secret report on North Korean nuclear affairs prepared by the Russian General Staff and an interview with an unnamed official involved in compiling that report, referred to in a note as "a leader." The report is entitled "The Russian Federation's Military Policy in the Asia and Pacific Region Under the New Military-Political Conditions."

It seems that more can be seen from the top of our General Staff building than from the U.S., Japanese, or NATO counterparts. At any rate, Russian specialists and analysts are more candid on the problem of the North Korean nuclear program and stricter in their judgments than their Western colleagues, who recently have repeatedly shared information with journalists—true, their own journalists, not foreigners. It follows from the report, prepared for Grachev and then forwarded to Yeltsin (according to the Japanese magazine, which was told all this by our talkative secret agents in Moscow), that Pyongyang has scored major achievements in implementing a missile program and a nuclear program. The DPRK already has its own nuclear warheads and several hundred delivery vehicles capable of delivering the payload.

It is clear from the Russian report and from the mysterious "leader's" comments on it that Pyongyang embarked with particular zeal on its nuclear missile program in the second half of the eighties, with active Russian participation. Almost 160 Russian nuclear scientists and missilemen have passed through North Korean laboratories and specialized centers since then. At present nine Russian nuclear scientists and 17 highly qualified missile specialists are working in North Korea. This is outside the framework of bilateral cooperation and is unofficial, as it were—according to the "leader's" comments, many of our scientists have changed their names, and some have taken DPRK citizenship. Only it is not this that is important but the fact that the project to create the Korean Nodong-1 intermediate-range missile was successfully completed with the assistance of Russian brains, and North Korea has accumulated a sufficient stock of enriched nuclear raw materials with the help of Russian scientists and technologies and now possesses approximately 10-12 kg of uranium-235 and 20 kg of plutonium-239. Citing the testimonies of four Russian specialists who recently returned from the DPRK after working in Korean nuclear complexes, the report maintains that Pyongyang already possesses one or two nuclear warheads and by the end of this year will roll several more off the conveyor belt. The DPRK is now engaged in creating a new generation of Nodong-2 solid-fuel missiles with an increased hit range. According to Russian estimates, in the very near future our fuel technologies and know-how and our missile scientists and solid-fuel specialists will be objects of special attention for Pyongyang's agents.

In this connection the report proposes revising all existing technological agreements between Russia and the DPRK, stopping the leak of cadres, and devoting special attention to bridge-building with the United States, South Korea, and Japan for extensive coordination of actions. It is even proposed that we think about the prospect of creating some kind of regional ABM system involving Russia, Japan, and the United States.

At the same time it is pointed out that not only Russia but also China has been involved in the DPRK's nuclear affairs, and the Chinese factor is now becoming the key one.

The document cited at length by the Japanese magazine is stamped "top secret" and was prepared by the Russian Defense Ministry General Staff Military-Strategic Analysis Center. After being read by Grachev and Yeltsin, extracts from the report were forwarded on the president's instructions to the U.S. Defense Department (within the framework of an information exchange). A facsimile of a Russian Defense Ministry form with the issue number 001 SM-137 and date of publication 22 October 1993 is even given as an illustration. In short, there are no doubts about the authenticity of the document itself, but some questions do arise, and it makes sense to ask them. The first and most important question: On what unspecified grounds does Russian General Staff information get into Japanese hands, accompanied, moreover, by detailed comments and explanations by a "leader" working, to judge from the wording employed by the weekly, in the structure of the General Staff itself? Maybe no major secrets have been divulged, but the question needs to be answered if only for one reason—a Japanese audience is the first to learn about the Russian military department's assessments, while the Russian audience, as is already the custom, is considered "second class."

Second question: On what terms and in [illegible]ircumstances did the Japanese weekly obtain exclusive material from the Russian Defense Ministry? If it was on instructions from chiefs conducting an intricate publicity operation, I would like to have an idea of that intention. If it was without the chiefs' knowledge, it would be even better to know the whereabouts of the secret key which opens Russian General Staff safes for Japanese guests.

Finally, a third question, again one of considerable importance: Who in Japan (or some other country) will be the next happy possessor of Russian secret documents? If the Russian mass media are not old enough to have the honor of being the first to learn the Russian military department's viewpoint, they must at least get their bearings in the information area and know in which foreign journal or newspaper it will be possible to familiarize themselves with the views of their own Defense Ministry.

South Korea May Use Russian Weapons for Training

LD2701171194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1438 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul January 27 TASS—The South Korean Defence Ministry is discussing the possibility of using some Russian armaments exclusively for training and in experimental programmes. This was stated on Wednesday to South Korean journalists by Major-General Han Sung-Ui, a representative of the South Korean military establishment, in connection with press reports that Russia had recently offered to pay back South Korean credits by deliveries of the latest military technologies, the South Korean press reported today.

Han Sung-Ui said it was difficult to include Russian military hardware in the arsenal of the South Korean Armed Forces, because the latter were organised and equipped according to the American system. However, limited amounts of Russian armaments could be used to study the Russian tactics and military doctrine, and also to polish off operations to beat off a possible attack from North Korea, whose troops are armed with Soviet-type weaponry.

The representative of the Defence Ministry stressed that the Seoul government would go on adhering to the priority development of military cooperation with its closest ally—the United States. At the same time, it will promote relations with the neighbouring countries, such as Russia and Japan, including in the sphere of defence. "I am referring primarily to exchanges of cadets and servicemen," Han Sung-Ui stated.

Director of the second Asia department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikolay Solovyov stated in Moscow that the Russian Foreign Ministry did not forward to the South Korean side any official documents on the sale or joint production of armaments, as well as of up-to-date technologies, in payment for Russia's debts. South Korean representatives have received a package of proposals on military-technical cooperation during Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin's visit to Seoul last August. Confirming this fact, Solovyov noted that no official reply was received from the South Korean side so far.

PRC, ROK Concerned About Patriot Deployment

SK2801122394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Beijing and Seoul are expressing concern about the U.S. plan to deploy the anti-missile Patriot system of the U.S. Forces in the ROK.

The United States is planning to introduce Patriot missiles into the ROK under the fabricated pretext [nalchodoen kusillo] that the DPRK has missile attack capability.

According to AFP reports from Seoul, ROK political circles are concerned about the possibility that nuclear talks with Pyongyang will go amiss [patan] due to the deployment of those missiles.

Beijing has officially opposed the attempt to deploy missiles. A spokesman for the PRC Foreign Ministry stated that the PRC opposes any action [imuiui haengdong] detrimental to peace and security of the Korean peninsula.

Commentary Discusses Deployment

SK2801015294 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton from the "Today's World" program]

[Text] The United States plans to send Patriot missiles to South Korea. The Patriot missile was used in the Persian Gulf war and performed well. Station commentator Yuriy Solton writes on this:

The Pentagon discussed this matter at the request of the commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea, though President Clinton has not approved it yet. Quoting U.S. CIA materials, the Pentagon is planning to deploy Patriot missiles—which is an antimissile system—in South Korea because Pyonayang is capable of attacking U.S. military facilities with [word indistinct] missiles.

It is difficult to believe that such an attack is possible. First of all, recently the U.S. CIA said that a North Korean military aggression is almost impossible. Also, according to a report by an independent U.S. [word indistinct], the Nodong-1 missile, which is modeled after a Scud-type missile, does not pose a big threat.

Considering these factors, it can be estimated that the plan to deploy Patriot missiles in South Korea is made to apply pressure on Pyongyang. It is also estimated that through such a pressure the United States attempts to lead North Korea to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities which have been under the suspicion of developing nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang should have cleared such suspicion by returning to the Nonproliferation Treaty. However, the deployment of U.S. Patriot missiles in South Korea will not be conducive to solving the nuclear issue. Rather, it will lead Pyongyang to take countermeasures, thereby further aggravating the situation of the Korean penisula.

Foreign Ministry Praises Clinton's Address

LD2701194494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 27 Jan 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry believes that "on the whole the U.S. President's State of the Union address leaves the impression of a long-term and bold document oriented to the future," the deputy head of the information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Mikhail Demurin, told a briefing in Moscow today.

Demurin pointed to the American administration's intention to retain the United States' active involvement in international affairs. "We are pleased to take into account the United States' intention to assign key importance to partnership relations with Russia confirmed by the president and to support Boris Yeltsin's course of reforms in the future," the diplomat said.

CIA's 'Four Areas' of U.S. Interest in Russia Cited

PM2701160094 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Facts and Assessments" rubric: "What in Russia Interests CIA Director J. Woolsey?"]

[Text] He stated to Congress that there are "four vast areas" over there in which U.S. intelligence has been activated. First, it "provides our politicians with important, sometimes unique...analytical materials warning of the potential dangers being encountered" by Russia. Second, U.S. intelligence is "continuing to keep track of the location and condition of about 27,000 Russian nuclear warheads." The third area of its work pertaining to Russia continues to be the "monitoring of the state of the Russian Federation general-purpose Armed Forces," James Woolsey said. The fourth major area is the "analysis of Russia'a policy vis-a-vis its neighbors." "It should be no surprise to anyone...that a crisis may arise in any political, social, and regional trouble spot in Russia and the remainder of the former USSR," he stated.

Proposed Agreement With U.S. on Submarine Safety Recalled

PM2701120594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 94 First Edition p 6

[Nikolay Burbyga article: "Victims of Undeclared Wars. 4. Submarines Sometimes Never Come to the Surface At All"]

[Excerpts] In the past 27 years—1967 through 1994—there have been 20 underwater collisions between Russian Navy submarines and foreign nuclear submarines, mainly U.S. ones. Eleven of these "encounters" took place in the maritime combat readiness test sites of the Northern and Pacific Fleets, which are directly adjacent to Russia's shores. The latest collisions that were recorded involved the nuclear submarine Baton Rouge in the Barents Sea in February 1993, and the nuclear submarine Grayling in March 1993 (both were from the U.S. Navy). Military experts maintain that such incidents can lead to the loss of submarines together with their crews and an ensuing environmental disaster. Alas, there are full grounds for such depressing conclusions...

A K-129 Soviet diesel missile submarine (the Golf class according to NATO classification) was lost on 8 March 1968 in the northern part of the Pacific Ocean as a result of an unpremeditated collision with a U.S. Navy nuclear submarine. Captain First Rank Vladimir Kobzar, the submarine commander, and 98 crew members perished.

IZVESTIYA wrote about this tragedy in a series of articles under the general heading "Submarine from 'Graveyard' Bay" (Nos. 154, 155, 156, and 158 in 1992). [passage omitted]

We have only spoken about one collision, which led to the loss of a submarine and crew, but there have been a lot of collisions like this. The same kind of collision occurred in 1968 when an Echo-II class submarine from the Northern Fleet (Commander Captain First Rank V. Shekhovnov) collided with an unidentified U.S. navy nuclear vessel in the Barents Sea.

In 1979 another Echo-II class nuclear vessel belonging to the Pacific Fleet (Commander Captain First Rank B. Bogdasaryan) collided with the U.S. nuclear vessel Tautog off the Kamchatka coast.

In 1974, in the same area, a Yankee class submarine (Commander Captain First Rank Yu. Antonovskiy) collided with a U.S. Navy nuclear vessel...

In all of the listed cases, it was only by a miracle that the submarines avoided destruction. According to Admiral of the Reserve Vladimir Sidorov, former commander of the Pacific Fleet, these collisions (at the present time they are the most dangerous accidents at sea) could be stopped with the help of the signing of an agreement by the Russian and U.S. Governments on preventing incidents between submarines underwater. And, as the editorial office has found out, the American side was familiarized with a draft of this agreement back in June 1993...

Churkin Says Russia 'No Threat' to Baltics

LD2701194294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] "Absolutely no threat to the Baltic countries" comes from Russia. Representatives from Russia and the Baltic states "simply have to gather together and constructively resolve problems inherited from their common past," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin told a news conference in Moscow on Thursday.

According to him, Russia "has the impression that some Baltic politicians believe that they can ensure their national interests by means of confrontation with Russia." This is "a great delusion," Churkin noted. "They can protect their sovereignty in real terms only by building relations of partnership with Russia. Russia acts in precisely this way, and it hopes that this kind of approach will triumph," the deputy foreign minister said.

Speaking about the presence of Russian troops in the Baltic countries, Churkin said that Russia has already withdrawn 85

of its troops from there. He called attention to the fact that at the very beginning of this process Moscow insisted on the need to sign corresponding intergovernmental agreements. "Unfortunately, the Baltic countries failed to understand the realities we have to cope with, when, despite our serious internal problems, we remove our troops from there," Churkin said. Russia, he stressed, "is seeking to imbue this process with an element of greater cooperativeness."

According to Churkin, at present Russia and the Baltic countries are "at the decisive stage of final troop withdrawal." In his view, 90

of the agreement on troop withdrawal from Latvia is ready. What remains to be coordinated are questions connected with the situation of military retirees and with the functioning of the radar station in Skrunda.

With reference to the human rights situation in the Baltic countries, Churkin stressed that Russia "never linked the issue of troop withdrawal to changes in the situation of Russian speakers." "Moreover, it is Latvia and Estonia which insisted on such linkage, saying that the situation of ethnic Russians in the Baltic countries will improve after the withdrawal of troops. We view this as a promise. Let's see how they honor it," he said.

Speaking about Estonia's territorial claims to several areas in Russia's Pskov Region, Churkin pointed out that "there is no need to create additional irritants, which, as a matter of fact, will bring no practical results. We can take retaliatory measures, and our Estonian partners will not like it." In his view, "the territorial issue is clear. This is Russian territory, it is controlled by Russia, and our present border with Estonia has the status of state frontier."

Churkin: Use of 'Near Abroad' Cause of Misunderstandings

LD2801113194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin said at a news conference that he does not consider it expedient to use the term near abroad in official statements and documents. In Churkin's opinion, it is precisely due to the use of this term that various misunderstandings have resulted and a negative reaction has come from some former USSR union republic capitals. In Churkin's opinion, the Baltic countries can in no way be included in the near abroad because those countries left the USSR even before it disintegrated and are not likely to seek CIS membership.

At the same time, Churkin emphasized that the term near abroad should not be interpreted as a threat against the sovereignty of any state because Russia, the CIS, and the Baltic countries were united into a country for years; consequently, they also have many problems in common, including the issue of the Russian-speaking population, said Churkin.

A meeting of representatives of Russian communities living in the near abroad took place in Moscow, with nearly 70 people attending. All those present found that there are human rights violations taking place in Latvia and Estonia, a fact that lifts international legal acts

above the national ones. As a consequence, the Russian-speaking population has become stateless in those countries. [passage omitted]

Shushkevich Ouster Costs Yeltsin Support of 'Reliable Ally'

PM2801101194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "The Removal of Stanislav Shushkevich Was a Nasty Surprise for Moscow"]

[Text] The events of the evening of 26 January in the Belarus parliament came as a complete suprise to Russian diplomats. "We never imagined it would come to Shushkevich's resignation. Literally hours before the vote the Russian ambassador in Minsk was reporting on the situation in the republic—and he expressed no alarm. What happened was like a bolt from the blue," a Russian Foreign Ministry CIS department aide admitted.

The removal of Shushkevich is not going to do Russian-Belarusian relations any good. Boris Yeltsin has lost a reliable ally, who unconditionally took his side last fall in the struggle against Khasbulatov and Rutskoy. The Belarusian leader was one of the few CIS leaders whose loyalty Yeltsin could always count on: In the past two years it is difficult to remember an occasion when Minsk has not supported a Moscow initiative in the context of the Commonwealth.

Shushkevich's stock was pretty high in the international area—he was seen as a reformer and stalwart supporter of the market economy. Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, whose position most observers expect to be strengthened, adopts a different line. His views are much closer to those of his Russian colleague Chernomyrdin than to those of Yeltsin and Shushkevich.

The results of the vote removed the final doubts about the Belarusian parliament's orientation: The communists have a solid majority in it. The signs are that someone who will more easily find a common language with Zyuganov than with Yeltsin will be elected the new chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

In this situation there is practically no hope of the Belarusian leaders' carrying out serious reforms. The republic's economic prospects could not be gloomier. Nevertheless, Chernomyrdin will fly to Minsk in February to agree on a mechanism for the unification of the two states' monetary systems. Given that this step was causing thunderous protests on the part of Russian reformers even before Shushkevich's removal, one can imagine the kind of reaction there will be now that the Belarusian parliament has shown its hand.

As for Belarusian foreign policy, according to Russian diplomats, it will not change significantly. Minsk is too heavily dependent on Moscow and the leaders of the communist majority in the Supreme Soviet are unlikely to openly display their ideological enmity toward Yeltsin.

Dismissal Must Not Affect Relations

LD2701155994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The dismissal of Stanislav Shushkevich as Chairman of Belarus's parliament must not radically alter the character of relations between Russia and Belarus, a senior Russian diplomat responsible for ties with the former Soviet republics told Interfax on Thursday [27 January].

The Belarussian leader's resignation was quite unexpected for Russia's foreign ministry, he said. Nevertheless Russia had no reason to fear that relations between the two countries would cool, since "all the branches of power and major political forces (except the Popular Front, which has about 10% of the vote in Belarus's parliament—IF) stand for strengthening cooperation with Russia."

According to Interfax's interviewee, no one in Belarus needs negative changes in bilateral relations, since Belarus gets from Russia about 90

of its fuel, and Russia accounts for up to 72% of Belarussian turnover.

As the diplomat said, Shushkevich's departure may even stimulate closer cooperation between the two countries in the framework of the CIS and on a bilateral basis. For instance, the former parliament chairman procrastinated on a decision on his country's joining the treaty on collective security, and notified the Russian leadership of a positive decision on this issue only on December 31, 1993.

With reference to the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus, which caused a controversial response in Moscow, Interfax's interviewee said that "the political dividends Moscow will gain as a result of the proposed agreement will outweigh the financial expenditure, and in the future this will bring Russia considerable profit."

Head of Belarussian diplomacy Piotr Kravchenko maintains that changes in the country's leadership will not affect relations with Russia.

The Minister-Counsellor of the Russian Embassy in Minsk, Vyacheslav Kovalenko, told Interfax that at Thursday's meeting with Russian Ambassador Igor Saprykin he stressed that the Belarussian leadership would continue its policy of rapprochement with Russia.

Belarus Economic, Political Woes Presage Reunification

MK2801113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Rustam Narzikulov report: "Shushkevich Has Been Converted Into the Ruble"]

[Text] On the evening of 26 January the Belarusian parliament realized the second of the two possible options for creating political conditions for the upcoming signing of the treaty with Russia on merging the monetary systems.

The first was that the parliament, in opposition to its speaker, was going to declare integration into a confederation with Russia. Implementation of this option, however, would have called for considerably greater organizational efforts and moreover a positive result would not have been guaranteed, because the Russian Federation leadership would have hardly agreed to the political merging of the two states. "Friends from Moscow" advised acting according to the "if there is no man, there is no problem" principle.

Apparently it was much easier to "remove" Stanislav Shushkevich, reanimating the old charges of corruption, than immediately to renounce statehood. The Lithuanian services, which spirited away Burokyavicius and Yermolavicius, came very handy as a cause for the resignation of the Belarusian speaker.

Thus the "problem of Shushkevich," who did not show enthusiasm over the merging of the monetary systems and therefore introduced a certain element of embarrassment into bilateral relations, has been resolved and the Russian prime minister can now go to Minsk in early February is a tranquil state of mind, fearing no complications.

The protests by Mr. Bagdankevich, chairman of the Belarus National Bank, can be discounted because he is obligated to carry out the decision by the republic's parliament. This also goes for the small deputies opposition.

Strange as it might seem, only Russia stands to gain from this course of events. If the naive Belarusian ex-communists think that they will be using the ruble on a par with the Russian citizens, they are grossly deluded.

In spite of Viktor Gerashchenko's great passion for supporting national and CIS production by "nonmonetary methods of fighting inflation," he has enough sense of measure to prepare the treaty on merging the monetary systems in such a way that its practical implementation depends on concrete technical accords. Therefore even with the accepted exchange rate of "one zaychik [Belarus currency] for one ruble," Belarus will hardly get the 1.6 trillion rubles owed it, as is apparent from the treaty. Even Mr. Gerashchenko did not consider it possible to grant it almost the entire second tranche from the IMF ($1.5 billion) out of his tender affection for the former USSR brothers.

Signs are that so far the "merging" will be reduced to an extremely slow and agonizing procedure of exchanging the bills, which will substantially nullify any gain for the Belarusians. A similar picture can now be observed in Tajikistan, which has been in the ruble zone for two months now. The exchange of old Soviet rubles for new Russian ones is accompanied by so many restrictions (the population, for instance, is issued bills with denominations not higher than 500 rubles) that Russia is hardly feeling the effects of inflation imported from Central Asia.

Incidentally, the main reason for Shushkevich's and Bogdanovich's doubts about the expediency of entering the ruble zone was not their hypertrophied sense of sovereignty but the well-founded suspicions that they will be "fooled."

SEGODNYA has evidence indicating that Belarus will be confronted with something very much like the Tajik model. If the idea of quiet sabotage of the treaty is implemented, its results (political and economic) will have to be recognized as far from the worst possible for Russia.

A feature of the Russian Federation Government in recent years, however, has been that its course of action can be reversed within just one day. Therefore there are no guarantees that the top leadership of the Central Bank and the Council of Ministers is not playing its own game, unknown to outsiders, and that a few months later a new state formation will not emerge—a Russian-Belarusian confederation. In this event the already unhealthy Russian economy will have to feed a neighbor with a population of 10 million.

Chernomyrdin Signs Cooperation Agreements With Italy

LD2701193594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1823 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Alexey Bukalov, Alexey Golyayev, Ivan Ivanov, and Sergey Startsev]

[Text] Rome January 27 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin ended talks with his Italian counterpart Carlo Azeglio Ciampi on Thursday [27 January] by signing a package of bilateral agreements, including a statement of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Italy.

At a news conference after the talks, the Russian and Italian premiers expressed satisfaction with the state of bilateral ties, stressing that both countries have big potential for their development in the future.

Ciampi said he was pleased to hear from his Russian counterpart that there will be no backtracking on

reforms in Russia. He admitted that Russia is facing certain difficulties which are inevitable on the way towards a free market economy.

Chernomyrdin said that the upcoming G-7 summit meeting to be held this coming summer and to be attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin should begin the transformation of G-7 into G-8, at least on a political level.

Both prime ministers had discussed various aspects of cooperation with international organisations, including the European Union and NATO, paying special attention to the Partnership for Peace programme. The sides also focused on bilateral trade and economic relations between Italy and Russia, prioritising cooperation in power engineering and oil and gas production.

"As for Italy and Russia, our business is going pretty well. Italy is our second largest, after Germany, trade partner in Europe. We have signed such contracts with it, of which not every country can boast. For example, a contract with the group ENI to modernise gas pipelines in russia is estimated at about 2 billion U.S. dollars. In return, Italy will receive extra six billion cubic meters of gas annually," Chernomyrdin said.

Ciampi told ITAR-TASS that Italy supports reforms in Russia, stressing that the boosting of energy production and energy exports are vital for the Russian economy.

Speaking about Russia's position on the Bosnian settlement, Chernomyrdin said that this topic had not been discussed during the talks. He pointed out to Russia's desire to settle the conflict in the Balkans as soon as possible by using "civilised political methods." "In this respect the positions of our countries are close," the premier said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Cited on New Foreign Policy

LD2701213694 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1845 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Russia's new foreign policy has been the cause of much concern in the West, above all because we have noticed that there is a desire to return to a situation where Moscow is central to the former Soviet republics. Stefano Picchi asked Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Adamishin about this:

[Begin Adamishin recording] Our policy has been changing, not only in the last few days but over the past year. In what direction is it changing? It is becoming more pragmatic—let us say, more interested in the defense of our national interests. We may have passed through a somewhat romantic period when we thought that because we had a correct foreign policy we would no longer have any problems. This was not the case.

Even when going in a correct direction you must still find a way of solving problems, because interests do not always coincide. I will give you an example: Russia's role in the former Soviet republics is not always recognized. Sometimes it is said that in these republics we are going back to imperialist ways, that we want to rebuild the Soviet Union. It is not true. We have seen, we have established that unless Russia plays an active role it is very difficult to have stability, security, and tranquillity on our border. The former republics want Russia's active role; they want it. [end recording]

Spokesman Refutes Italian Newspaper's Quote of Chernomyrdin

LD2701202794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Valentin Sergeyev, head of the government press service, refuted an expression attributed to Viktor Chernomyrdin by the Italian newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA: I am in charge in Moscow.

In his interview to INTERFAX, Sergeyev, who is accompanying the Russian prime minister on his visit to Italy visit, described the quote which was published in the Italian newspaper as a rather annoying misunderstanding. Such methods can play into the hands of those who are not happy about Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin working together on forming a government capable of continuing the course of reforms, the head of the Russian government press service noted.

Western Group Commander Deplores German Press 'Falsehoods'

PM2701153994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 3

[Vadim Markushin and Sergey Pashayev report: "Western Group of Forces' History Will Continue With Its Withdrawal"]

[Text] A good hundred journalists assembled at the Russian Embassy in Berlin for a press conference given by Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces [WGF], and their expectations were justified. During his half-hour speech the commander in chief briefed the journalists in great detail on the progress of the Russian troop withdrawal from FRG territory and the problems associated with it.

Housing construction in Russia for the families of the WGF servicemen being withdrawn is the most painful problem, M. Burlakov stressed. As you know, this has been exacerbated because the units' withdrawal to new basing locations has been speeded up. The withdrawal has been speeded up, but the pace of apartment construction not been stepped up, indeed it has even slowed down. At present there are still 13,000 servicemen's families without housing. This year's plans make provision for the commissioning of around 45,000 apartments; however, given the current lag, I have my doubts, the commander in chief said, that these plans will be fulfilled.

The press conference also touched on the subject of the planned celebrations to mark the Russian troop withdrawal from Germany. They have been given the "go-ahead" in principle, notably during a recent telephone conversation between H. Kohl and B. Yeltsin. And the Russian side has put forward a concrete plan for these celebrations. What adjustments will the Germans make to it? And when? M. Burlakov was hopeful that an answer is in the offing.

Of late, according to the commander in chief, there have been plenty of articles in the German press concerning the state of the WGF and the withdrawal of its units home. Whereas most of these articles reflect the true state of affairs, there are also obvious falsehoods. DER SPIEGEL and DIE WELT are particularly guilty of this.

And another point. Millions of our compatriots have served in Russian garrisons in Germany. How can we preserve the memory of the good that has come of our relations? According to the commander in chief, units are today discussing the idea of setting up a public organization to continue the history of the WGF.

Tighter Rules on Passage Through Bosporus Viewed

PM2801110394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Turkey Closes Bosporus To Russian Tankers"]

[Excerpts] Turkey intends unilaterally to introduce its own special procedure governing the passage of civilian ships and warships through the Black Sea Bosporus and Dardanelles straits. That would be a revision of the international convention signed back in 1936. [passage omitted]

The "closure" of the Black Sea straits to oil tankers would significantly affect the interests of the main oil exporter—Russia.

Murat Uzun, Turkish assistant secretary for maritime affairs, told journalists that the new rules have one purpose—to guarantee ships safe passage through the Black Sea straits and "in no way do they imply a change in the actual conventon."

According to Professor Kamil Bekyashev, a Russian specialist in the sphere of the international law of the sea, the convention does not entitle Turkey to regulate the passage of nonmilitary ships through the straits. Nonetheless, the Turks are constantly tightening up the terms of passage on a unilateral basis. Recently the Turkish Government approved more than 20 rules restricting freedom of navigation in the straits. But there is a great deal of sense in Turkey's actions, IZVESTIYA expert K. Bekyashev and Foreign Ministry representatives believe. The waters of the straits are also the waters of ports, and the ships are crossing a port's territory, as it were, so they are under Turkish jurisdiction.

The modern law of the sea allows strait states to establish rules governing the safety of shipping and protection of the marine environment against pollution. Foreign ships are obliged to observe them.

Russian diplomats understand the Turkish authorities' decision to "establish order" in its straits. At least, it is the topic of talks planned for February in Istanbul.

Moscow Presses for UNSC Session on Bosnia in Geneva

LD2701185994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Even though the world community's response to the new Russian initiative concerning a settlement in Bosnia is "cautious, it makes it possible to go on with these efforts, above all with those aimed at convening the UN Security Council [UNSC] for a session in Geneva," said Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Vitaliy Churkin, on Thursday in answer to Interfax's question.

There is no intention of "forcing the European Union countries out of the process of settlement," he said at Thursday's briefing in Moscow. "We simply want to utilize the political weight and prestige of the UN Security Council to bring this affair (settlement: Interfax) to an end. It's not our fault that not all the European countries involved in this process are members of the UN Security Council," Russia's deputy foreign minister said.

Earlier on Thursday, Churkin said, he spoke with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering about the new Russian initiative. According to him, the attitudes taken by the two countries have much in common. Nevertheless, he added, "neither Russia nor its European partners should look back at Washington all the time in their efforts to settle the crisis in Bosnia."

"As for the reaction of European countries, there is an impression that a session of the UN Security Council scares them more than the consequences of the war in Bosnia do," Churkin added.

Ground Forces Deputy Commander on Use of Force in FRY

LD2701124794

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0335 GMT on 27 January, as part of the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry, carries a recorded report on the views of Eduard Vorobyev, first deputy commander in chief of Russian ground troops, regarding the prospect of the use of force to stop the warring sides in Yugoslavia.

Vorobyev says: "The Americans regard the operation to enforce peace as a peacekeeping operation. We are not yet in complete agreement on this and believe that this issue needs additional working through. Servicemen would not be acting as peacekeepers, and the primary

method of achieving the ultimate objective would be the use of weapons. How, subsequently, would those servicemen be able to carry out the task of peacekeeping?"

Vorobyev adds: "Whether we like it or not, carrying out an operation to enforce peace would, alas, result in the death of people, including civilians. We can also, unfortunately, see this in the example of Yugoslavia." He continues: "We believe that the operation to enforce peace should be taken out of the framework of the peacekeeping operation. Of course, a situation may arise when force must also be used, but there need to be special units for this, which should be armed appropriately."

In conclusion, Vorobyev says: "The servicemen or military units taking part in peacekeeping operations use weapons only in exceptional cases—above all, in self-defense."

Zhirinovskiy Opposes Sanctions on Serbia, Libya, Iraq

AU2701132494 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 27 Jan 94 p 9

["tu"-signed report: "Germans and Russians Eternal Friends"]

[Text] Moscow—In Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's opinion, Germans and Russians are "eternal friends." The chairman of the right-wing extremist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), which surprisingly came out on top in last December's elections, said that a "Berlin-Moscow axis," to be extended to the Indian capital Delhi, should secure stability in Europe and Asia.

At a joint press conference with Munich publisher and chairman of the extreme right-wing German People's Union (DVU), Gerhard Frey, Zhirinovskiy said he is in favor of large-scale joint German-Russian projects. This should include a highway from Berlin via Kaliningrad and Moscow to Vladivostok. He also demanded more German language teaching in Russian schools. The LDPR leader spoke out against ethnic German Russians leaving the country. They should be kept in Russia, where there is plenty of space for more settlers from Germany. Together with Frey, Zhirinovskiy laid a wreath at the memorial of the soldiers killed in the war against Napoleon's troops, to commemorate the Russians "who liberated Europe together with the Germans."

Again, Zhirinovskiy demanded the resignation of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Economics Minister Alexandr Shokhin, and the head of the privatization authority, Anatoliy Chubays, the last reformer in the cabinet. According to Zhirinovskiy, all three are politicians who want to keep Russia down. Kozyrev could only save his skin if he took a "clear pro-Serbian position" immediately. Also, the government must demand an end to the international blockade of Serbia, Libya, and Iraq. It should, furthermore, reintegrate the Crimea into the Russian Federation because the people there no longer want to be part of Ukraine.

According to the Russian news agencies, the Public Prosecutor in Moscow has instituted proceedings against Zhirinovskiy, accusing him of warmongering. Zhirinovskiy called these reports a "hoax." According to INTERFAX, the proceedings were instituted following inquiries by various public authorities, mass media, and private individuals.

Political Issues

Government Cuts Russian TV Funding by Half

LD2701224994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 27 Jan 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The media and the authorities should have one another's best interests at heart, if both of them are Russian. But the journalist proposes, while someone else disposes.

[Milyanchikov] It looks as though Russia's leaders remember Russian Television only on days that are critical either to the country or to themselves personally. At such times, a live relay from a rally can be organized, a necessary program can be broadcast, and people can even work nights.

But, during the rest of the time, the Russian TV and Radio Company—set up, I remind you, at the instigation of Boris Yeltsin for the fight against Gorbachev—turns out to be superfluous.

Today, at any rate, at a meeting of the company's leaders at the Finance Ministry, it became clear that Russian TV is only hindering the government. It asks for money. But there is no money for it. The state company, which is totally dependent on the state, will only be given half of the money needed, and most of that will go on paying the communications engineers.

This means that the amount of broadcasting will have to be almost halved. Many programs will disappear—"K2", "Program A", "The Best NBA Games", the Disney cartoons, "Santa Barbara", and the Monday thrillers. The company no longer has any money with which to buy them. Thousands of people who trusted Boris Yeltsin in 1990 and who left the then rich Ostankino for the disordered life of Russian TV will be dismissed.

Today, in the office of General Director Anatoliy Lysenko, arguments have already been heard about what is to be cut and by how much. [video shows meeting in progress, unidentified man speaking].

[Unidentified speaker] I see this simply as the death of the channel. Well, we are now trying to find something, but, in general, the president's decree talked about reduction—and it has to be viewed as a kind of therapy, the shedding of a small amount of broadcasting—but today we can already see that it is not therapy. It is surgery. It is amputation. It is the amputation of state television.

[Milyanchikov] A similar fate awaits Radio Rossii.

Officials Reject Report on Zhirinovskiy Talks

LD2701205294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Late one evening at the end of last December, at a Russian Foreign Intelligence Service secret dacha rented by Arkadiy Volskiy, a meeting was held between Mr. Zhirinovskiy and the commanders of a number of divisions from the Moscow military district. This information was reported to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS by a member of one of the secret services, who also said that the conference had been of an antipresidential nature. The officers and generals had questioned why no one had thought of summoning them to the defense of the White House during the October mutiny.

Here are some short commentaries by the persons and organizations named in the newspaper article:

Tatyana Samolis, press secretary to the director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. I quote her statement: We have never rented nor are we renting anything to anyone.

Boris Nefedov, leader of Arkadiy Volskiy's group of consultants: The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs does not rent any premises of this kind from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, and Zhirinovskiy has never been in our buildings and did not hold any conferences with anyone.

As for the views of the military, here is my colleague Anton Grishin:

[Begin Grishin recording] The military authorities of the Tamanskaya Division categorically denied the information supplied in the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. The reaction of representatives of the military authorities of the Dzerzhinskiy Division only slightly differed from the position of their Tamanskaya colleagues. It was pointed out to a correspondent that it was impermissible that rumors of this kind, which bring Russian officers into disrepute, should be spread.

There does exist, however, an unofficial viewpoint on the meeting which is reported to have taken place between the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party and the division's commander. Thus a number of officers of the Tamanskaya Division, for instance, did not rule out possibilities of the kind, saying that if there had been a meeting, then it would explain a great deal—among other things, the result of the 12 December elections. I remind you that an overwhelming majority of the personnel of the Tamanskaya Division voted for Mr. Zhirinovskiy at the elections. [end recording]

I can add one more detail to what has already been said. There is a suspicion that Mr. Zhirinovskiy arrived at the meeting of military commanders to thank the military in person, so to speak, for the elections.

By all accounts, the leadership of the Defense Ministry was not informed that the meeting would take place.

However, the representative of the ministry declined to comment on the occurence in question, since he did not possess, as he put it, any information at all. Moreover, the representative of the press service expressed doubt as to the reliability of the source used by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS.

Commander Denies Meeting Zhirinovskiy

LD2801102494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1000 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—Commander of air-borne forces Yevgeniy Podkolzin refuted a report by the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper that representatives from an air-borne division commander participated in a secret meeting held by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, with the military late in December, reports the same newspaper on Friday.

It quotes Podkolzin's words that "not a single air-borne division or brigade commander sent his officers to this or other meetings".

Referring to an unidentified Russian intelligence officer, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS wrote in the report published on Thursday that the LDPR leader held the meeting at a secret country house of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service.

The report noted that the meeting was spearheaded "against the president and that Zhirinovskiy called on army officers to cooperate and pointed to the need for rapprochement between some parliamentary groups and commanders of combat units".

Group Taking Action Over Article

LD2801095094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The press service of Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs has denied a report on a meeting between Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and the commanders of a few army divisions. On 27 January, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS published an article saying that a meeting took place between Zhirinovskiy and the commanders of several army divisions at a conspiratorial dacha belonging to Russia's external intelligence service, which was being rented by the union's leader Arkadiy Volskiy. The article claims that the conference was of an antipresidential nature.

In this connection, the document says, the press service of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs believes it necessary to state that the information given does not correspond with reality and is of a provocative nature. Neither Volskiy nor the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs have rented or are renting any dacha belonging to the external intelligence service, and Zhirinovskiy has never been in the Union's buildings and held any conferences. The document also points to the serious moral and political damage which the publication is inflicting, both on Russia's president and on the union, and says that the leadership of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs is sending the relevant materials to court.

Russia's Choice Warns Power Shifting to Premier

LD2701174194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The new cabinet's make up may well support speculation that the Chernomyrdin government will try to roll back the reforms, secretary of the Russia's Choice Party in parliament Sergey Yushenkov told reporters on Thursday.

In his words, Chernomyrdin has managed to persuade the President and form a cabinet of his own choice, an indication of a gradual shift of federal authority to the Prime Minister.

For his part, RC public relations officer Kirill Ignatiyev said the party would ensure political support to its five ministers in the cabinet carrying out RC goals.

These are Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Science and Education Minister Boris Saltykov, Minister of Culture Yevgeniy Sidorov and Environment Minister Viktor Danilov-Danilyan.

Saltykov in turn has said he will remain in the cabinet as long as he can implement reforms within his area of responsibility.

Yushenkov hopes the Russian President is well aware of how fatal it will be to wind up reforms and will be able to muster up enough strength to take appropriate decisions.

He said that under the constitution, Yeltsin can name a Prime Minister but not individual ministers.

The RC is ready to bring a non-confidence motion against the government if it adopts unacceptable resolutions including one on the budget, Yushenkov said.

Dubinin Seen as Best Choice for Finance Minister

MK2801101094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Ivan Zasurskiy report under the "Appointments" rubric: "Dubinin Becomes Finance Minister. An Absolutely Normal Career"]

[Text] Sergey Dubinin has been appointed acting finance minister for the time being. There is hardly any doubt, however, that Sergey Dubinin will survive the trial period and become a full- blown minister.

Admittedly, Sergey Konstantinovich Dubinin has worked in the government fairly long and not just by dashing in and out—although formerly he always played second fiddle. Before becoming first deputy finance minister, he was Vladimir Mashits' deputy at the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. He came there

from a scientific environment (they say that Gaydar attended his seminars). Dubinin's work at the Economic Cooperation Committee was fairly effective; he was involved in negotiating interstate treaties on deliveries between the CIS countries and the Baltic states. Dubinin's competence in CIS matters does not raise any doubts as to his orientation toward Russian national interests.

Aside from overall economic competence, Dubinin is known for a healthy blend of theory and practice—at any rate, he is not dogmatic. Another noteworthy feature is his ability to work fruitfully as part of a "team," which is typical for most chiefs who have held first deputy posts. Of course, any postponement of inflation a la the political campaign-94 is out of the question. This does not mean, however, that the tap of credit resources will be fully open. On the contrary, one may expect an improvement in actual results of the ministry's operation, because at Council of Ministers meetings Dubinin will raise conceptual matters instead of newspaper pages, which will be a compensation to a certain degree for the office holder's loss of a deputy prime minister's title: the status of deputy prime minister and the post of the Credit Commission chairman, plus presidential confidence, enabled Fedorov to work (refuse to give money) virtually without discussing his steps. Dubinin appears to be able to bring relations between a finance minister and a Central Bank chairman back to a normal working relationship.

On the whole, Sergey Dubinin, keeping a low political profile, is the best choice for Chernomyrdin's government of pragmatists.

Lobov Tipped To Head Presidential Body

MK2801100094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Maksim Isayev report under the "Perspective" rubric: "President Has Not Forgotten About 'Power' Ministries and December Elections. Serious Reshuffles in Defense Ministry May Follow Two or Three Months From Now"]

[Text] According to confidential information received from presidential structures, the question about the first deputy prime minister in charge of the "power" ministries has been put on ice for the next two or three months. At the same time, there still remains the question about what practical conclusions should be drawn in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Defense Ministry, Foreign Intelligence Service, and the Federal Counterintelligence Service on the results of the December voting, and who and in what way is going to guarantee the loyalty of these structures to the present authority in the future. Work is proceeding apace in this connection on the creation of a special presidential organ for "oversight" of the "power" ministries, an organ that would inspect all types of their activities as well as take care of "ideological" work and personnel policy.

The most probable candidates to take over the position of head of this organ are Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and Oleg Lobov. Incidentally, it has transpired that Mr. Lobov has become the head of a special commission that has begun compiling efficiency rating reports on Federal Counterintelligence Service staffers. This and Lobov's special relationship with the president increase his chances, while he is also sure going to keep his post of Security Council secretary. In this situation, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov would quit the army to become Russia's first civilian defense minister.

The president is not likely to push Pavel Grachev completely aside, although many things will come into focus following the investigation in the State Duma defense committee into unseemly facts some experts think have a direct bearing on the current defense minister.

Geraschenko: Yeltsin Determined To Pursue Reforms

LD2701155294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] "The Russian president, after reorganizing the government, does not intend to curb reforms. He is determined to continue them," Interfax was told Thursday by the chairman of the Central Bank Viktor Geraschenko.

Regarding statements by former Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, Geraschenko said that they seem to be like a "quarrel in a communal kitchen." "I have never had to live in a communal kitchen," he went on, "except for when I was evacuated from Kazan, and I am accustomed to correlating my actions with those of people who live and work beside me."

"Even different approaches to the reform must not reduce to kitchen squabbles," said Geraschenko.

"My attitude to Boris Fedorov has always been normal and I believe his rhetorical attacks against myself and Aleksandr Zaveryukha are down to his age and character and I will not be losing sleep over them."

"Fedorov is not that fine an expert in finances, and his resignation will not be dramatic for Russia," believes Geraschenko. "There have never been indispensable workers and there will not be any in the future," he said.

He confirmed that fact that the reforms were reoriented to meet social needs and flatly denied Fedorov's statements that agriculture was a "black hole" through which the agroindustrial complex was still seeking credits.

Geraschenko believes that it is unwise to rely on food imports. Any country sustains its agricultural production, even if it is less expensive to buy food abroad, he believes.

"It is necessary to import food and at the same time increase agricultural production in Russia," said the chairman of the Central Bank of Russia.

Russia's Choice May Demand Vote of Confidence

LD2701174794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defence Committee and a leader of Russia's Choice, said his faction may call for a vote of confidence in the Viktor Chernomyrdin government.

Yushenkov told a news conference on Thursday the call will come if the faction finds "decisions made by Chenomyrdin's cabinet pose a real threat of a catastrophe in Russia," particularly in a situation where "the president remains all but the last guarantor of reforms and stability in Russia."

Commenting on the latest reshuffle in the government, the parliamentarian said the decision that Yegor Gaydar and other pro-reform ministers should quit was taken by Russia's Choice think-tank. However, no complete exodus of the faction's members from the government was planned, he added.

First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays and other four ministers, including Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, will continue to work under Chernomyrdin. As one of the four, the Science Minister Boris Saltykov put it, "as long as I am able to carry on reforms, I will stay in the government. I believe this will eventually be more effective than any spectacular demarche."

Kozyrev's Chances of Retaining Post Viewed

LD2701163194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1452 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Judging by everything, the government crisis in Russia will continue for some time on the frontpage of newspapers and featuring prominently on radio and television in Russia and not just in Russia alone. The alarm at the consequences of Boris Fedorov's departure from the cabinet had barely abated when the Foreign Ministry and its head came under ever more pronounced attack. Some observers now ask how long will Andrey Kozyrev manage to stay in his post? Let us hear the point of view of the political scientist Andrey Kortunov:

[Kortunov] Kozyrev is currently one of the last representatives of the radical team within the new, moderate government. I think that heightened criticism can be expected in the nearest future in many areas indeed.

In the first place, it is thought that the Foreign Ministry is not defending the interests of the Russophone population in the close neighboring countries with enough consistency. It is thought that the ministry is taking a stance that is too pro-Western as far as a whole gamut of international issues is concerned, essentially following in the wake of Washington's foreign policy, for instance regarding the former Yugoslavia.

Apart from this, Kozyrev is blamed for the somewhat discursive nature of our foreign policy and for the inability to determine with any precision the new place and role of the Russian state within the system of modern international relations.

This criticism is not wholly justified, in the first place because foreign policy is not being made by the Foreign Ministry alone—the Security Council and other ministries and departments have taken an active part in the elaboration of our foreign policy, which, in the final analysis, is Yeltsin's foreign policy and not Kozyrev's.

However, the question is to what extent can this criticism lead to changes in Russia's foreign policy and in the personnel composition of the Russian Foreign Ministry. I think that if one proceeds from the constitutional norms, the Russian Federation president has enough powers to have foreign policy made exempt, in practical terms, from debates in the State Duma, so as to be able to pursue a sufficiently consistent and constructive foreign policy course.

Yeltsin is clearly intent on pursuing presidential foreign policy, a policy that would be independent of the domestic political circumstances in Russia. On the other hand, if one focuses on the evolution of the Russian Federation's foreign policy course over the past several months, a certain tightening up is, of course, clearly discernible. In particular, it is possible to speak of a greater pressure, above all economic pressure, but also diplomatic pressure, upon the close neighboring countries. It is also possible to speak of attempts to set up Russia's own, liberal concept of nationalism that would oppose the ideology of Zhirinovskiy and his party and it is also possible to speak of some new nuances in the attitude toward the West.

How great are the current foreign minister's chances to retain his place within the new Cabinet?

I think that what is, perhaps, the best circumstance in the minister's favor is the fact that the president has essentially removed the power-wielding ministries from the remit of the council of ministers and the prime minister. The foreign minister, the defense minister, and the minister of internal affairs are currently subordinate directly to the president of Russia and hence there is a hope that Boris Yeltsin will, nevertheless, retain Andrey Kozyrev as his minister.

Yeltsin Will Not Allow 'Backtrack From Reforms'

LD2701165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1633 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] St. Petersburg January 27 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin is upset with his failure to persuade Boris Fedorov and Ella Pamfilova to stay in the government, presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Thursday, Kostikov warned against attempts to overdramatise the situation.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has repeatedly said lately that he will remain adherent to the course of reform, Kostikov said. At the same time, he said Chernomyrdin's statements at the recent agricultural conference in Oryol, Central Russia, resembled "the distribution of unbaked bread" and caused certain alarm. "The president is closely watching the situation in the government and will not allow (anyone) to backtrack from reforms while publicly pledging (one's) adherence to them," the spokesman said.

He recalled that the new government has been working only a few days since the reshuffle and has not taken any real steps yet. "The president is inclined to judge by deeds, not by words," Kostikov added. He noted that the president is concerned about statements which can be interpreted as partial restoration of "the administrative-command distribution and state planning system."

"Under the new Constitution, the president has enough powers and possibilities to direct the government and insist on the continuation of the course chosen by Russia, the spokesman said.

Asked about Yeltsin's relations with the parliament, Kostikov replied that the tragic experience of the October events in Moscow has given food for thought for both the president and the parliament. The president was the first to draw conclusions and meet with the heads of the parliament houses. "I think the deputy corps which has passed the trial of democratic elections is interested in constructive interaction with the president," Kostikov continued. He said number one task is to isolate extremist forces in the parliament.

Kostikov said that the president is preparing a message to the parliament in which he will outline the main tasks facing the country. It will reiterate his adherence to the continuation of the tough anti-inflationary policy and privatisation as one of the key prerequisites for the country's transfer to a market economy. These measures will be accompanied by social welfare guarantees, especially for those in need. "No one will give out unbaked bread from uncollected wheat," the spokesman said.

"The president has no intention of interfering in the operative work of the government and wants to see what the corrections proposed by Viktor Chernomyrdin will give. There may be various variants of tactics, but the president has a clear-cut limit, that is the continuation of reform. If he sees that a tendency towards its curtailment has emerged, he will nip that tendency in the bud," Kostikov said.

Soskovets: Main Task To 'Bring Order' to Russia

PM2701162094 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Golyayev: "Oleg Soskovets: We Must Bring Order to the Economy"]

[Text] The latest conference of the government commission on operational questions went on for over three hours and examined measures to stabilize the work of the aluminum industry.

As in other sectors of the national economy, problems have been building up here and they are holding back production development. The situation is aggravated by the fact that prices of this metal have slumped on the world market (we are largely responsible for this) and demand has fallen in Russia itself. The enterprise leaders addressing the conference insisted that some kind of influence be brought to bear on the energy industry, which has raised the prices of its products—in their view, this is inhibiting the sector's development. But, as Railways Minister Gennadiy Fadeyev, who also came in for a great deal of criticism, said at the conference, you cannot generate your own economic prosperity at the expense of others.

After the conference First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets answered journalists' questions:

[Question] How is the government reorganization going to continue, indeed there is still one first deputy chairman vacancy?

[Soskovets] There isn't a second first vice premier's post in the plan that I possess. Nor is there an industry commission, which I allegedly head.

[Question] The resignations of Gaydar and Fedorov got people saying that the reforms were over. What do you think?

[Soskovets] I do not see in what way Fedorov and Gaydar are more market-orientated than I.... The government's main task? We must bring order to Russia.

Edict Issued on Regulating Commissions, Councils

LD2701153094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan—With the coming into force of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and for the purposes of regulating the activity of commissions and councils under the Russian Federation president, Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict "On Established State Posts in Commissions and Councils Under the Russian Federation President". The edict establishes that work in commissions and councils under the Russian Federation president is done on a voluntary basis and does not represent federal state service. Established state posts in

these commissions and councils can be introduced by decision by the Russian Federation president.

The edict comes into force on publication.

This was reported by the press service of the Russian Federation president.

Yazov: Gorbachev Gave No Written Orders on Troops

LD2701174294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1508 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belsky]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—Former Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov, one of the 1991 August failed coup leaders, now tried for high treason admitted on Thursday that troops had been brought into Moscow regularly between 1990 and 1991 and it had never been registered in any documents.

Yazov said that in the majority of cases former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had issued only "oral instructions," adding that even the deployment of troops in Baku in january 1990 had not been preceded by such "formalities" as a written order of the Soviet president.

At the previous hearings, the former defence minister denied statements that plans had been made to storm the White House, the seat of Russian President Boris Yeltsin at that time.

He admitted that the coup attempt was unconstitutional as were the measures taken against the former soviet president who was removed from power and isolated at his Black Sea dacha.

He said the reasons for declaring a state of emergency in the former Soviet Union were extraordinary and much stronger than was envisaged by the law on the state of emergency.

Yazov stressed that he had ordered the troops on high alert, but denied he had ordered Soviet Air Forces on full combat readiness. He noted that all orders to the troops had been sent by the command of the airborne troops, who, apparently, have overstepped their powers.

Doubts on Yazov Evidence Blow to SCSE Case

PM2801083194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 94 First Edition p 3

[Valeriy Rudnev report: "The SCSE Case: Flawed Evidence of the Prosecutor's Office Is Excluded From Judicial Process"]

[Text] The continuing judicial process in the Russian Supreme Court in the SCSE (State Committee for the State of Emergency) case begins increasingly to resemble the sessions of an academic council, where decisions are discussed and adopted on academic questions of criminal law and a model for future judicial procedure is perfected.

Just recall the historic ruling establishing the adversary nature of the process, the direct appeal to legislators to remove a deficiency in legislation, and the direct references in judicial documents to the Russian Constitution. New ground in judicial practice was also broken during the cross-examination of Marshal Dmitriy Yazov.

It is well known that, following Yazov's arrest at Vnukovo-2 Airport, the marshal was cross-examined 22 and 30 August 1991, first as a suspect, then as a defendant, without the participation of an attorney. (Incidentally, the videotape of these very cross-examinations turned up in the hands of crafty journalists from DIE SPIEGEL in mysterious, and, quite possibly, criminal circumstances.) Yazov's defense attorneys, Nikolay Pechenkin and Lev Abdeldyayev, asked the Military Collegium to exclude the record of these examinations from the range of evidence being discussed in the judicial process. However, the state prosecution persistently returned the accused marshal to the evidence that he gave to the Prosecutor's Office investigators in the absence of a defense attorney. In other words, the question arose of the admissibility of evidence obtained in violation of the law.

Formerly, the courts endeavored to ignore such problems, which are of a theoretical rather than a substantial character. The Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium under the chairmanship of Anatoliy Ukolov invervened and issued the following ruling: "The suspect or defendant in a criminal case has the right to have a defense attorney either from the moment the charge is filed, or from the moment of detention or the use of preventive restrictions amounting to arrest. Evidence obtained from a suspect or defendant in violation of this right to a defense attorney has no juridical force and cannot be used to prove the charge leveled."

This means that yet more holes have appeared in the indictment against the members of the SCSE and their associates. At the very least, the court has forbidden the subsequent use of evidence given by Yazov 22 and 30 August 1991 and the examination records compiled as evidence on this basis.

According to an ITAR-TASS report, the former head of the Union miltary department admitted the unconstitutionality of measures employed in August 1991 against Mikhail Gorbachev, former head of the USSR, and also the actual creation of the USSR SCSE. However, Yazov, referring to the reality of the collapse of the unified state, again stressed the forced nature of the top USSR party and state leaders' actions at that time.

According to Yazov no combat orders were given to the military formations sent into the capital; an instruction was given only to place the Armed Forces on combat alert.

The examination of Dmitriy Yazov continues.

Popov Claims Post-August Reforms 'Rejected'

LD2701230694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan—"Russia has rejected the post-August reform version"—this was the main result of the parliamentary elections in the opinion of Gavriil Popov, chairman of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms [RMDR]. He said this today at a news conference devoted to the second RMDR Congress due to be held on 29 January.

The former mayor of Moscow believes that with the implementation of the "shock therapy" policy, a westernist version of reform had been chosen, of which the essential elements became the dissolution of the USSR and annihilation of Russia's military-industrial capacity, in which the West had an interest. He called "shock therapy" a "model for the complete destruction of the country and its subordination to international monopolies." In the opinion of Gavriil Popov, neither the Gorbachev nor the post-August concepts of reform have solved the main problem for Russia—the transition to a postindustrial society, and therefore the country is faced with the "task of developing a third model for the period of transition." He insists that the development of "a Russian model for the post-industrial society" requires "gigantic work," which may be done only as a result of the unification of the centrist forces in Russia.

The RMDR leader believes that there is no need to create a fuss about the new government. In his opinion, it is a "caretaker government for a year-and-a-half, the task of which is to purify the country of the extremes of a westernist policy."

Analysing the reasons for the defeat of the RMDR in the elections (the movement failed to gather the five percent of votes necessary to enter parliament), Gavriil Popov gave as one of the reasons the unsuccessful attempts to form an electoral coalition with other parties. "We did not expect that Russia would reject the westernist policy right away," he said, adding that this was the main strategic mistake of the RMDR. The movement's congress will be devoted to the results of the elections and the elaboration of the RMDR's tactics and strategy.

Gavriil Popov said that accusations being made against him of corruption in his time as mayor could only be explained by the fact that after August 1992 he had "come out against the line being taken by the Russian Government."

PRAVDA's Owner Denies Relations Severed

LD2701164094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Vladimir Malyshev, ITAR-TASS correspondent in Athens, reports that Yannis Yannikos, the Greek owner of the PRAVDA newspaper, has denied the statement by its editor in chief Viktor Linnik alleging that the former organ of the CPSU Central Committee had allegedly severed relations with him, had suspended publication, and intends henceforth to rely only on the support of Russian business circles.

In an interview in the Athens newspaper TA NEA, Yannikos recalled that PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL, which he heads, possesses 55 percent of the newspaper's shares and does not intend to cooperate with Russian businessmen.

The Greek Communist publisher said that the newspaper has no economic problems as he has sufficient funds to continue its publication. In the view of Yannikos, Linnik's statement does not reflect the view of the PRAVDA editorial staff, many of whom oppose the editor.

In Athens it is said that the interview given by the Greek owner of PRAVDA testifies to the serious split within its management connected with the newspaper's crisis and the sharp drop in the number of copies being printed. The local press recalls in this connection the storm that blew up in 1992 when the Athens publisher, who was known to few people in the Greek capital, unexpectedly became the owner of what had once been one of the most authoritative Russian newspapers. Assumptions were voiced that the funds used for publishing PRAVDA were certainly not the personal funds of Yannikos, but rather CPSU money that had earlier been transferred abroad. He flatly denied this but was quite unable to explain where he got the millions of dollars to support this publication.

Court's Revival 'Inconvenient' for Yeltsin

PM2701152394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 94 First Edition p 3

[Leonid Nikitinskiy article: "Constitutional Court Constituted as Previously Gives President First Warning"]

[Text] On Tuesday [25 January] the Constitutional Court Judges' Collegium discussed the question of restoring Judge Valeriy Zorkin's powers, which had been suspended previously because of the court chairman's active participation in political activity.

Following those of his colleague Luchin, although unlike him not resorting to a hunger strike, Zorkin's rights as a constitutional judge were restored. The decision was made at a closed meeting of the judges by seven votes to three.

Thus the Constitutional Court, which under the well-known presidential edicts was, as it were, put into suspended animation at least until the new constitution came into force, has woken up like a long-dormant volcano. Its first decision was an emphatic reminder of the existence in the Russian state of another pole of political opinion, which was merely temporarily pushed into the background by the elections to the Federal Assembly and their rather surprising results.

In the fall, after Boris Yeltsin issued Edict No. 1400, the Constitutional Court was possibly too hasty in taking the view that this edict was to be categorically rejected as anticonstitutional. This in turn played a part in escalating the confrontation between the branches of power, and probably to a certain extent provoked the White House into attempting to resolve the conflict by force. During this period a draft document terminating the Constitutional Court judges' powers in one form or another was discussed in presidential circles. However, having given preference to democratic elections and to putting the constitutional draft to a referendum rather than introducing temporary direct presidential rule, Yeltsin was unable within the framework of this logic to contemplate the abolition of the Constitutional Court in addition to the elimination of Soviet power.

For their part the judges made a compromise, effectively declaring their decision on Edict No. 1400 erroneous and, like wise chess players, offering the figure of ex-Chairman Zorkin "as a sacrifice."

As a result of this gambit the Constitutional Court judges gained not only a necessary breathing space but also very strong positions regarding the new constitution. Under it the Constitutional Court, in particular, decides cases concerning whether both federal laws passed by the Federal Assembly and normative presidential edicts and government decrees conform to the Constitution, and also interprets the Constitution.

It follows from the Constitution's transitional provisions that all 13 Constitutional Court judges, elected under the old procedure for protecting the old constitution, in their former capacity and without any losses "move" with their lifelong powers to a new "constitutional field" (to use the ex-chairman's favorite expression). Another six judges, who must be appointed by the Federation Council after being proposed by the president, will have to be co-opted onto the collegium in addition to the 13 existing judges. Possible candidates are already being proposed in political and legal circles. Understandably, both organs of power involved in the appointments will try to fill the six vacant posts with people on whom they can rely in the future. But the Constitutional Court judges, without waiting to be "diluted" in this way, are hurrying to take measures to secure their own independence.

Internal questions concerning the Constitutional Court's life are affected only in form by the decision to restore Zorkin's powers in connection with his cessation of active involvement in politics, which impedes the exercise of a judge's functions, and by the similar decision regarding Luchin not long before this. Essentially the judges, anticipating the question which they have not yet been asked aloud by the organs of the legislative, executive, and presidential branches, have declared that they are once again ready to adopt an active political position in the existing balance between the branches.

All the indications are that this position will be an extremely inconvenient one for the president, which is evident from the fact that Zorkin, to whom Yeltsin has a widely known "political allergy" (mutual), has had his powers restored, and this is especially so in the absence of Vitruk, an acting chairman most loyal to Yeltsin.

The Constitutional Court's decision can be regarded both as a reaction to the defeat of the presidential team (or of the teams acceptable to him) in the 12 December elections and as a symptom of the weakening of Yeltsin's positions regarding other poles of political opinion, including the government.

The Constitutional Court, while no longer cunning in the sense that it says it will keep completely aloof from the country's political life, is again becoming an important and effective factor (like an ambuscade force) in Russian politics. At the moment it is difficult to say whether this will help to improve it. Maybe it would be no bad thing if the Constitutional Court did not start repeating its previous mistakes and lapsing into its own power ambitions but served as an effective brake, henceforth cautioning Russian politicians against excessively sudden movements and going too far.

Party Conditions for Backing Yeltsin

LD2601185194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The Economic Freedom Party is prepared to withdraw its support for Boris Yeltsin and call for early presidential elections if "he tries to take a compromise stance or reduce the role he plays to that of an arbiter in forming the government and determining the reform course." This was the decision adopted by the party's third convention held in Moscow on January 26.

The political resolution of the convention says that the party will back the president if the government policy "gives priority to financial stabilization, tangible support for entrepreneurship, reduction of taxes and taxation reform and providing the right climate for economic restructuring."

The party thinks that the situation in the country "may culminate in increased social tension and economic hardships." Still, President Yeltsin is said to have a real potential to prevent this development if he "forms a government of reforms rather than a coalition government sheltering behind reformist phraseology."

"As things stand in Russia today, the president must not agree to the role of an arbiter some would impose on him," the political resolution runs.

The party will take an active part in regional and local elections. "It is on success in these elections that the party's future will largely depend," the party chairman Konstantin Borovoy said at a news conference Wednesday. He also said that the Economic Freedom Party intended to interact with democratic and reform forces and would work for a broad democratic coalition in parliament.

Economic Issues

Russia's 1993 Finances Prepared by Fedorov

LD2701214994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2036 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] INTERFAX has learned that ex-Finance Minister Boris Fedorov prepared a review "Russia's Finances in 1993," a kind of Finance Ministry report of the work done. The document also includes prognoses on the developments in the country's economy in 1994.

According to Fedorov, the principal conclusions are:

1. In 1993, the ministry on the whole stuck to the anti-inflation orientation of Russia's financial policy and make a considerable step forward. The most ingenuous analysis shows that there was no "shock therapy" at all.

2. Nearly all principal decisions have already been made, the only thing left is to calmly and consistently pursue this policy, develop a set of instruments and build market institutions and mechanisms.

3. A market economy already exists in Russia, and it is possible to regulate it by market means, e.g. by monetary measures. There is no real alternative to the policy that is being pursued, and there could not be one.

4. The results would have been more substantial, had the government and the Central Bank supported and pursued the monetary and credit policies they proclaimed. The Finance Ministry alone cannot restructure the whole country's economy.

5. The turn away from reforms which began to take shape in the beginning of 1994 (shift to mythical non-monetary methods, raising the industrial output at the expense of additional emission, neglect of elementary financial discipline) is doomed to failure. The situation in the economy will inevitably worsen. A market economy cannot be regulated by the same methods that Gosplan (the State Planning Committee) used.

6. Any waiver of this policy must be short-term and politically motivated. It is already impossible to reverse the course of the development of Russia' economy by peaceful means. However, it is the people who will pay out of their own pockets for the waiver. "Red businessmen" are throwing the country into an abyss of limp decay and non-competence again.

The review also suggests three versions of the financial and economic policies for 1994:

THE FIRST VERSION implies "refusing the widespread idea that problems of structural reconstruction might be solved at the expense of monetary emission, especially when the conditions for the effective use of financial resources in the real sector are not yet created."

According to the first version, it would be more expedient to gradually reduce the Central Bank's emission by about three times compared to 1993 and keep it down to 5% of GDP in the fourth quarter of this year. In this case, inflation would amount to 5-6% a month by this summer. The ruble would trade against the US dollar at 2,000-2,500 in the second half of the year. By the end of the year, GDP would shrink by another 8-10% compared to last December. After a sharp fall in the first quarter of 1994, people's real incomes would grow by another 10% by the end of the year, e.g. by about the same as in 1993.

THE SECOND VERSION envisions that the government will continue to support industries by emitting more money and granting credits, but very discreetly.

According to this version, the Central Bank's emission would reach 9-10% of GDP in the first half of the year and decrease by 1.5 times by the end of the year. This would allow preservation of the average monthly inflation rate of 11-12% obtained by the end of 1993 and a positive re-financing interest rate. On the whole, GDP would be shrinking by about 7-9% by December 1994. People's real incomes would remain the same as in 1993. The ruble's rate would grow slower than the inflation rate and would total 4,500-5,000 rubles per US dollar by the end of the year. Like the previous one, this version would make possible constructive cooperation with international financial institutions, real financial aid and agreement in restructuring Russia's foreign debt.

THE THIRD VERSION "reflects the situation taking a feasible shape in late January 1994: A reverse from the moderately strict credit and monetary policies pursued in 1993." According to this variant, the government will boost monetary emission to cover the budget deficit, as the Central Bank will grant more credits. There will be re-introduced the institution of privileged credits, delays of payments and writing off the agro-industrial complex's debts.

The review points out that in its assessment of the quantitative parameters of this version, the ministry took into account the presidential decree setting the maximum deficit of the federal budget financed at the expense of the Central Bank's credit at 7.5 Tn rubles.

This is why the credit emission was more likely to expand at the expanse of the Central Bank's credits to the industries (seasonal works in agriculture, delivery of

goods to the northern regions, aid to the fuel and energy complex, etc.) and channelling its incomes to the budget. In addition, decisions to pay out a number of "production" debts to defense enterprises, agriculture, and for purchase of grain from the budget of 1993 are being prepared.

Taking into account the expected tax earnings in the first quarter of 1994 and the maximum deficit limit set by the president, payment of the "production" debts is possible only if the announced indexing of salaries of employees of state bodies is cancelled. Therefore, the inflation mechanism will function in the following way: the Central Bank's credits to the industries and the "production" re-orientation of budget spending will result in a swift aggravation of the situation in the budget sphere. This will indeed require indexing the salaries of budget-supported enterprises' employees in the second quarter.

To support the industries balancing on the brink of the budget's survival, the credit emission will have to increase up to 25-30% of GDP by mid-summer. This is a moderately realistic assessment of the activities of "red businessmen" (the Ukrainian government granted credits totalling half of GDP in 1993). So, Russia may face a "Ukrainization" of its economy in the third quarter of 1994. Negative processes in finance will be further aggravated by an outflow of capital and a sharp drop of the ruble.

The authors of the review point out that "the attempt to replace monetary methods for control of inflation with non-monetary ones such as restricted prices, compulsory sale of all hard currency earnings, fixed rate of the ruble, obligatory deliveries , etc., will finally mean gradually curbing not only economic, but also political reforms, and the course for democratization of society."

Military & Space Issues

Air Force Commander Views 'Difficult' Year

PM2801094194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 2

[Interview with Colonel General of Aviation Viktor Kot, commander in chief of the Russian Air Force, by Major Sergey Babichev; date, place not given: "Air Force Acquires New Image. Colonel General of Aviation Viktor Kot, Commander in Chief of the Russian Air Force, Discusses Some Results of Last Year's Combat Training and Aviators' Tasks This Year"]

[Text] [Kot] I will not hide the fact that last year was a difficult one for us. Not everything was done as we planned and as we would have liked. Nonetheless there is some cause for satisfaction. I think that the main task was accomplished: The combat readiness of the Air Force matches the requirements of the time.

The High Command focused its main efforts on implementing the plan for the organizational development of the Air Force, which made provision for improving the organizational structure and the command and control system, and on creating combat ready aviation groupings on Russia's new borders. A fundamentally new approach to the use of the Air Force was sought. It was essential to arrive at a balanced ratio between combat and support components. To some extent we have achieved this.

[Babichev] It was pointed out when the Defense Ministry summed up the results of 1993 that flying time had dropped in the Air Force. What impact has this had on the state of combat readiness?

[Kot] The country's economic difficulties have affected the combat readiness of the Air Force and the Armed Forces as a whole. Irregular supplies of fuel and lack of the requisite quantity of spare parts prevented the flight training plan from being implemented in full.

But when talking about figures for overall flying time you must bear in mind that in this period there has been a tremendous drop in the number of Air Force personnel, flight personnel included. The size of the aircraft pool has dropped as a result of obsolete aircraft being removed from the arsenal. You could not therefore have expected overall flying time—compared with last year—to remain the same with that kind of reorganization of the Air Force.

Nonetheless throughout the past year we tried to keep personnel's air combat proficiency at the requisite level. Exercises conducted in conjunction with other branches of the Armed Forces demonstrated that we were successful in this.

As well as tackling combat training tasks last year military-transport pilots transported over 10,000 [as published] people and over 11,000 tonnes of national economic freight. We delivered technological equipment to the Surgut oil men, metal working machines to the Norilsk mining and metallurgical combine, and humanitarian freight from Germany. Residents of various parts of the country experienced military-transport aviation's aid.

Logged flying hours and lasting skills have always been the basis of successful flight operations. Regrettably, pilots' average flying time is in fact a long way from well-founded norms. I myself am a pilot and know where this can lead. Nonetheless, in 1993 we managed to somewhat reduce the number of air crashes.

While being aware of the acuteness of problems of material and technical support for the Air Force and their adverse effect on flight safety, I must admit that they are not responsible for the chronic accident rate. Most of the accidents in the air could have been averted had personnel acted competently. Accidents and crashes are primarily due to flagrant deviations from procedures for organizing flights and carrying out missions.

When analyzing the results of the year we would note that, despite all the difficulties inherent in the situation,

around 90 percent of aviation regiments operated accident-free. The Air Force High Command has not created any special conditions for them. This convinces us that it is possible to avoid accidents and disasters when flying. All that is needed is systematic preventive work by all categories of airmen.

[Babichev] You broached the question of the reduction in personnel. It is a topical subject, one that worries many people, sometimes giving rise not only to well-founded demands, but also to misinterpretation....

[Kot] That's true. I would like to point out right away that it is primarily the Air Force managerial apparatus that is being cut back. Authorized strength has been cut by 34,200 servicemen in total.

The Air Force remembers the grim wholesale cadre cuts during the late fifties and early sixties. The result being thousands of shattered lives and a drastic slowdown in aircraft development. It subsequently took the Air Force almost 25 years to take wing again. The present reduction in officer cadres has had virtually no impact on the activity of combined formations and units. It is primarily officers who have completed their legally prescribed term of service and who are socially secure who are being discharged. We are not ordering those people to stay on if they have decided to leave military service for some reason and find themselves a post in civilian structures. Admittedly, there are fewer of them around now. The reverse is already starting to happen. Many people have become disenchanted after working or attempting to work for commercial structures and are asking to be reinstated in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

[Babichev] What is the reason for this, in your view?

[Kot] I primarily think .hat this is happening because officers are more secure than they were before and, second, it is hard for a military man—after several years serving in a team of officers where he always met with understanding, experienced mutual assistance, and felt confident in the future—to get accustomed to new relationships, different ways of achieving objectives, and the individualism that exists in a civilian environment. Part of my job is to talk to officers who have had an opportunity to compare life in and outside the Army. Many of them are profoundly convinced that by no means everyone can find a niche on civvy street. We take an understanding view of those who are determined to continue serving in the Air Force.

When thinking about the future of the Air Force, we pay particular attention to young officers. Despite the acute housing problems almost every one of them, on entering a line unit after graduating from school, gets a place in an officers' hostel. Where possible family men are given apartments. What is more a relocation allowance—which did not previously exist—to some extent helps overcome material difficulties.

[Babichev] The problem of servicemen's social security has always been among the most acute. Not least for those returning home from nearby foreign countries and further afield. How do things stand now in the Air Force with the troop withdrawal? What has been done for the "returnees"?

[Kot] In 1993 around 200 units were withdrawn from nearby foreign countries and further afield, including two formation command elements, four combined formation command elements, 17 Air Force regiments, and support units. People's futures and tremendous work involved in accommodating the withdrawn units and personnel and preserving the tremendous material assets and equipment lie behind these figures.

We are doing everything to ensure that every servicemen feels that there is a reception waiting for him at home. Thus, in the past year around 6,000 apartments have been built under the capital construction plan, over 900 finished apartments have been bought with state budget money, over 200 with extrabudgetary funds, and over 600 apartments procured through foreign firms' efforts.

While aware that these figures will not alleviate the acuteness of the housing problem, we are working for the future. The situation is as follows: At the beginning of 1994 families without apartments total around 30,000 people.

[Babichev] Viktor Sevastyanovich, in the new year of 1994, it is evidently not only the housing problem that is worrying Air Force command. What else affects combat readiness?

[Kot] We are most concerned over the good repair of the aircraft fleet and the problem of further improving aviation technology and arms. The drop in defense order appropriations and the lag in the indexation of the allocated funds are forcing us to seek new approaches to resolving these problems.

We are focusing our main efforts on top-priority developments of fifth-generation aviation complexes and buying spare parts to maintain the aircraft fleet in a state of good repair.

We are not complaining about the problems, but seeking ways to resolve them. The leadership of the Air Force High Command realizes the importance and complexity of the tasks set by the defense minister for the new training year and is taking steps to carry them out.

Military Counterintelligence Group Said in Works

MK2701083 94 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMO ETS in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 1

[Unattributed .eport under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "KGB Continues To Fragment"]

[Text] Information has come to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS from trustworthy sources about a new reorganization of the Russian state security structure.

The president's staff is processing documents on the creation of yet another special service. Plans are in the works to remove the military intelligence directorate from the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service, and to create on its basis a separate state security structure. This is being done in order to place the military counterintelligence men in control of the army directly under the president of Russia.

Navy Chief Kasatonov Visits Baltic Fleet Bases

PM2701124394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 24 Jan 94

[By G. Sablin and A. Troshin from Kaliningrad; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sablin] The combat and tactical training of Baltic Fleet crews and ships deserves the highest appraisal. This opinion was expressed to journalists by Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, summing up the results of his visit to bases of Russia's oldest fleet. Dwelling on the timescale for the withdrawal naval forces from Latvia, he confirmed the readiness of the last major unit—a submarine brigade—to quit Liepaja by 1 June of this year.

At the same time Igor Kasatonov stressed that with the loss of its bases in Baltic countries, the Russian Navy will not lose its might or mobility.

[Admiral I. Kasatonov] Whereas the fleet now has 27 percent of nuclear warheads, this figure will rise to 42-47 percent by the year 2000. On 21 December I had the honor of being the senior Ministry of Defense official attending the laying of the keel of the latest submarine. In addition, the keels of a number of surface vessels have also been laid, and individual vessels have been commissioned.

However, the concept of a new fleet, the fleet for the third millenium, needs to be confirmed. Naturally, it will have to pass through government.

Defense Committee Chief on Future Arms Exports

MK2701130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 2

["ADS" report: "Russia Sells Fewer Weapons"]

[Text] Russian armaments and military hardware export last year was $2.117 billion (35 percent of 1990 exports); the export of civilian products was $513.6 million (26 percent of the 1990 exports). This was reported on 26 January at the collegium of the State Committee on the Defense Industry by committee chairman Viktor Glukhikh. Export, according to him, should become one of the main sources of funds for the upkeep of the military production and research facilities because the purchases of armaments and military hardware, as well as budget appropriations for Russia's Defense Ministry, have been sharply curtailed. To be successful on the foreign market it is necessary to create a new system of organization of foreign economic activity by Defense Ministry enterprises. With this in mind, the State Committee on the Defense Industry has drawn up a draft law on Russia's military-technological cooperation with other countries, and a draft government decree granting to enterprises independence in foreign economic activities. Viktor Glukhikh thinks that the main role in the weapons market should belong to the developer and producer.

'Progress M-21' Spacecraft Launched 28 Jan

LD2801071694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0656 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—The automatically controlled cargo spacecraft Progress M-21 was launched today at 05.12, Moscow time.

The purpose of its launching is to deliver various cargoes to the Mir orbital complex.

The Progress M-21 was put into orbit with the following parametres:
—maximum distance from the earth's surface—236 km,
—minimum distance from the earth's surface—194 km,
—period of revolution—88.5 minutes,
—inclination—51.6 degrees.

According to the telemetric information, the on-board systems of the cargo spacecraft are functioning normally.

The total weight of the cargo, together with fuel, is about two tonnes. Viktor Afanasiev, Yuriy Usachev and Valeriy Polyakov, who are working at the Mir orbital station, will receive the equipment they need, fuel, materials for scientific research, food, as well as parcels from their families. Aside from it, manual TV-controlled regime equipment will be tested at the Progress M-21.

The crew of the 15th main expedition will receive a total of three cargo spacecraft.

Federal Assembly

Duma Declaration 'Challenge' to Yeltsin

MK2701113094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 3

[Oleg Medvedev report: "The Duma's Legislation Activity Is Limited by the Constitution"]

[Text] The State Duma's Committee on Legislation and Legal and Judicial Reform, headed by Vladimir Isakov, Boris Yeltsin's long-standing opponent, yesterday submitted to other committees a draft declaration on the succession of the Federal Assembly as the supreme legislative and representative power body. In it, the Duma is proclaimed a political successor the Supreme Soviet. If adopted, this declaration will become the State Duma's first serious challenge to the president.

So far this is merely a declaration—a document whose adoption does not entail any legal effects. In a conversation with KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent, Mr. Isakov stated that since the deputies' attitude to this document is controversial, it should be executed precisely in the form of a declaration and submitted to the Duma only after being carefully studied in the committees. Apparently Vladimir Isakov sees the declaration as a feeler of the deputies' attitude to this sensitive issue. Apart from the declaration, the legislation committee is preparing a number of other draft laws that can give rise to serious friction with the president. Laws based on concepts differing from the president's are also ripening in other committees.

The constitution, however, substantially limits the possibility of adopting laws not suiting the president. The Duma can approve such a law: to do so, the majority of deputies need to vote for it. Further, the law is submitted to the Federation Council: the president uses all levers on its members to influence them either to adopt the law or reject it. If the president's efforts are unproductive, he can use his veto power. To override his veto requires two-thirds of the vote in both houses of parliament, which is very difficult to get. Thus, in making the first attempt to pass a law which is absolutely unamenable to the president, the Duma has been confronted with the problem of its own legislative powerlessness.

To overcome it, the Duma should probably seek the president's opinion at the early stages of work on draft laws. (Incidentally, a proposal has come from the presidential administration whereby not only adopted laws but also their drafts should be sent to the Kremlin). This opinion is apparently also shared by Mr. Isakov. According to him, each law adopted by the Duma must be the result of a compromise, combining provisions both attractive and not very attractive to the president: this should make the draft law veto- proof.

Not only the Duma but also the president and the government are interested in such a compromise formula: If the latter fail to find a common language with the house and block the laws adopted by it, the lower chamber of parliament will very soon become a politically embittered and aggressive state body, a powerful center attracting all those unhappy with the president, including those who have invested heavily in electing "their" deputies in the hope for future profits resulting from the passage of beneficial laws.

Deputies Support Rutskoy, Khasbulatov Amnesty

MK2701134094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 2

[POSTFACTUM report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Novosibirsk—Vasiliy Lipitskiy, Novosibirsk-elected State Duma deputy, and leader of the "Free Russia" People's Party, intends to press for parliament to pass a decision to amnesty Khasbulatov, Rutskoy, and other participants in the October events in Moscow. Vasiliy Lipitskiy already moved in one of the first parliament sessions that this question be included on the agenda, but his motion was rejected. In the opinion of Duma Deputy Ivan Anichkin, the failure of Vasiliy Lipitskiy's first attempt to secure the release of the Lefortovo prisoners is explained only by the lack of coordination in the actions of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] group of deputies, who voted against the proposal. "But we will be able to agree on this question with Zhirinovskiy," Ivan Anichkin thinks.

Defense Official Meets Kokoshin, Stepashin

MK2701122094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 3

[Ilya Bulavinov, Semen Ulyanich report: "Parliamentarians Get Down to Security"]

[Text] Aleksandr Piskunov, deputy chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee, yesterday met with Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy defense minister, and Sergey Stepashin, first deputy chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service. They discussed questions of interaction between the power structures and the parliament committee.

There are practically no doubts that a single coordinated line on military policy will be worked out, Aleksandr Piskunov believes. One of the first priority tasks, in his opinion, is consideration of the military budget for 1994. The committee has already prepared a draft law on procedures for the participation of Russian troops in peacekeeping operations abroad.

It seems that Mr. Piskunov will after all manage to come to agreement with the military department. In the former parliament he also worked on the defense committee—as deputy chairman—and therefore has extensive experience in dealing with the Defense Ministry, which looked good amid the general state of relations at the time between the executive and legislative branches.

As a high-ranking official at the Defense Ministry told KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent, his department is counting on Aleksandr Piskunov, who is more sophisticated in military matters, than on Sergey Yushenkov, former professor at the Military and Political Academy, or Dmitriy Volkogonov, another representative of Russia's Choice in the Defense Committee, who is suspected of intending to pass a law on alternative service, seen by the army generals as undesirable, and also of being inclined toward various reorganizations in the military department.

As for the Security Committee, the scheme of its interrelations with the power structures will apparently be different. Among the committee members are such prominent opposition figures as Aleksandr Nevzorov, Stanislav Govorukhin, and Yuriy Vlasov. With this composition, the committee chairman—communist Viktor Ilyukhin—is, according to a source in the Federal Counterintelligence Service, a man with whom one can talk. Furthermore, owing to his commitment to the idea of strong centralized state security bodies, Ilyukhin evokes secret sympathies among the hitherto untouchable KGB, tired of constant reorganizations.

Defense Committee Chairman Yushenkov Interviewed

PM2801095194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 1

[Interview with Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, by Vladimir Klimov: "Sergey Yushenkov: The Army Needs To Be Thoroughly Reformed"]

[Text] Sergey Nikolayevich Yushenkov is chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee. Our military observer Vladimir Klimov asked him to talk about the committee's work plans.

[Yushenkov] We will be approving the work plans at a committee sitting in the very near future. The draft laws we will be preparing and the changes to existing laws can be split into several groups.

In the first I would place laws envisaged by the Russian Federation Constitution: the Law on Martial Law, the Law on the State of Emergency, and the Law on Alternative Service. That represents our foundation. The laws are extremely wide-ranging in their effect and they require meticulous, detailed study.

The next group comprises laws connected with the main points of the military doctrine. Basically we will be examining amendments to existing laws. For example, the Law on Military Obligation and Military Service must be brought in line with presidential edicts and the military doctrine. Changes will be made to the Law on Defense, the Law on the Status of Servicemen, and the Law on Additional Guarantees and Compensation for Servicemen.

The third group—perhaps it should be regarded as the second in terms of importance—will include laws that will set parameters for the reform of the Armed Forces. First, the Law on Defense Expenditure. That is, the economic and financial aspects of the reform and the identification of the structure of expenditure and the quantitative parameters. Equally important is the Law on Civilian Monitoring. If we are building a rule-of-law state, then this implies civilian monitoring of the activities of the power structures, glasnost, and access to information—in fact, hitherto, certain topics that are not state secrets have been declared closed.

The next group of laws regulate military service in the border forces, internal forces, and special services. They might include social guarantees for servicemen, members of their families, and people who have been discharged into the reserves.

[Klimov] What is your relationship, Sergey Nikolayevich, with the power structures, in particular with the Defense Ministry?

[Yushenkov] Above all I must stress that we are not the Armed Forces Committee, but the Defense Committee. Anything relating to defense falls within the sphere of our activity: the military-economic, military-technical, and the actual military policy of the state. And the part of the military-industrial complex that services defense.

We have not been operating for long, so we do not have any close contacts with the power structures as yet. But we are already developing a working relationship with the Defense Ministry.

[Klimov] Sergey Nikolayevich, what can be regarded as the priority problems in the social sphere?

[Yushenkov] Things are difficult for society and even more difficult for the Army, since it is very hard to be a stable organism in an unstable society. You know what a problem the draft is at the moment. As a result officers are sometimes performing the functions of privates: guard details, alert duty. But they are not getting paid and are not being given apartments.

The Army needs to be thoroughly reformed, not merely for the sake of it, but in order to be able to achieve the goals the Armed Forces face.

[Klimov] Only a very strong team can tackle such important and extensive plans. Who is on the committee?

[Yushenkov] There are 16 people. Some of them are very well known. For example, Artur Nikolayevich Chilingarov, president of the association of polar expedition members, a man who spent six months at the North and South Poles and got in the Guinness Book of Records. Dmitriy Antonovich Volkogonov needs no introduction. Colonel General Yuriy Nikolayevich Rodionov is Russian Federation deputy chief military inspector.

[Klimov] The current composition of the State Duma is extremely varied. Are you optimistic about the future, Sergey Nikolayevich?

[Yushenkov] There are questions on which common sense must prevail. Although there are bound to be people in the Duma who will place political and ideological functions before actual legislative activity. This must be seen as inevitable. Churchill said that demcracy is the worst form of government, but mankind has not come up with anything better.

Regional Affairs

Sobchak: Problems Resolved During Yeltsin Visit

LD2701202894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2014 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] St. Petersburg January 27 TASS—"For the president when he is resolving the most important problems of the country's life, it is very important to see sentiments of the people, understand how they live, what they need and in what mood they are," mayor of St. Petersburg Anatoliy Sobchak told ITAR-TASS summing up the results of Boris Yeltsin's visit to St. Petersburg where he participated in the festivities devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the full lifting of the blockade of Leningrad during World War II.

Despite this holiday, the head of state and the leadership of the city and the region, at a meeting behind closed doors, managed to discuss a wide range of actual problems for the region which demanded the settlement at the presidential level.

According to Anatoliy Sobchak, the president promised to support the St. Petersburg authorities in financing, from the federal budget, the construction of new metro lines which are extremely necessary to the city. The mayor of St. Petersburg obtained Boris Yeltsin's consent to promote the St. Petersburg project of accomplishing the construction of the dam [as received]. This issue will be submitted for the Russian Government's consideration.

Participants in the meeting discussed the possibilities of crediting of house building which is very actual for St. Petersburg where considerable part of the population are still living in shared flats. The spectrum of issues discussed today was extremely wide, also including subsidizing products of stock breeding which are delivered to St. Petersburg from the Leningrad region, timely receipt of funds for the preparation for the Good Will Games due to be held in summer, and quoting some kinds of goods.

Special attention was paid to the settlement of problems with petrol taking into account that the Surgut Company is the monopolist in petrol deliveries to St. Petersburg and therefore maintains prices for this fuel at the highest level in the country. According to Anatoliy Sobchak, the city authorities proposed to the president the mechanism for overcoming the monopolism in this field, and the president intends to sign an appropriate decree.

The sensation of the day was the St. Petersburg mayor's report that Boris Yeltsin agreed in principle to turn the city of Kronshtadt into a free economic zone. This city will be stage-by- stage opened up for tourists and citizens of St. Petersburg. The navy base located on the territory of Kronshtadt will have to be moved to some other place. According to Anatoliy Sobchak, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev who was present at the meeting said "yes" on this issue.

In addition, many problems concerning the Leningrad region were solved at the Russian president's meeting with the leadership of this region.

Government Seen Acquiescing to Tatarstan's Status

MK2801120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Lukhashov report in the "Marathon" column: "Moscow and Kazan: A New Round of Negotiations. Will Tatarstan Get a Special Status?"]

[Text] As SEGODNYA's correspondent has learned, the next round of talks between the Russian and Tatar delegations on the signing of a treaty of mutual delegation of powers and jurisdiction has been scheduled for 4 February. On the following day a meeting will take place between Boris Yeltsin and Mintimer Shaymiyev.

It is hard to understand what is forcing the Russian authorities to undertake this generally unpopular move at this moment. In the Kazan corridors of power this treaty is being described in no other way than interstate. Possibly Mr. Shaymiyev's hints that if the treaty is not signed before 13 March (on that day repeat elections to the Federal Assembly are set in Tatarstan), "the republic's people will react accordingly."

Be that as it may, the talks have continued for two years, and they are now nearing the finish line.

According to Tatarstan Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev, who is head of the delegation to the talks, the most intensive period of coordinating the sides' positions has now begun. Not only the draft treaty is being discussed but also draft intergovernment agreements, seven of which were signed last year. At present five more are pending: on crime control (it is practically ready), on finances (the debate is over Tatarstan's demands for independence in defining the interest rate on credits allocated by the Russian Central Bank and also that the republic's government be granted the power to influence its share in money emission), on budget relations (through how many channels and in what volume to remit taxes to the center), on military matters, and on foreign economic activity. On the latter issue Tatarstan demands that the republic's status on foreign markets be adjusted to its constitution, which says that "Tatarstan...is a subject of international law."

The Tatar delegation members' optimism is enhanced by the fact that, according to Mr. Likhachev, "the Russian side relates with understanding to the republic's aspiration to define its status in the Russian Federation." The Russian side at the talks is represented by Sergey Shakhray, Aleksandr Shokhin, and Viktor Gerashchenko. The Russian delegation is led by Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov. The Tatarstan vice president, with this setup, also considers realistic the long-cherished idea of formalizing Tatarstan's special status in the Russian Constitution.

"At the same time we understand the measure of our responsibility in this activity," says republic Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov. "There are two viewpoints from which the results of this work can be perceived by Federation components. But we believe that Tatarstan has matured for a new type of relations with Russia and for a mutual delegation of powers. I am sure that the whole of Russia will follow our example. This is the only way of guaranteeing stability of the Russian economy and Russia's unity..."

Furthermore it also needs to be taken into account that the repeat nomination of deputy candidates to the Federal Assembly should be completed a month prior to the elections, that is to say on 13 February. Therefore the Russian and Tatarstan delegations do not have very much time left. And if after two years of talks the treaty is finally signed, then one would probably agree with Vasiliy Likhachev who has already defined this event as historic.

International Affairs

Navy Protests Black Sea Fleet Exercises

LD2801083994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol January 28 TASS—"The command of the Black Sea Fleet has violated agreements with the Ukrainian and Crimean leadership, under which it is necessary to coordinate in advance all movements of the personnel and armaments," the press centre of the Ukrainian Navy announced Thursday.

It circulated a statement which said that the Ukrainian Defence Ministry and the Ukrainian Navy had been put before the accomplished fact. No one had informed them in advance about the planned exercise.

The statement pointed out as well that prior to the official announcement of the beginning of the exercise coastal guard units of the Black Sea Fleet had been put on a high combat alert and an exercise had been held on loading the hardware on landing boats.

Such actions on the eve of presidential elections in the Crimea may heighten tension in the region and create conditions for all kinds of provocations which, of course, is impermissible. Since during the transitional period the Black Sea Fleet belongs simultaneously to the two countries, Ukraine and Russia, the mutual informing of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy of the exercises, training, as well as the movement of personnel and armaments connected with them, is in line with the fraternal atmosphere, good neighbourly relations and the consolidation of trust and mutual understanding, the statement said.

Further on Navy's Protest

LD2701131894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0831 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Sevastopol—The Black Sea Fleet Press Center reports that over 20 combat ships of the Black Sea Fleet put out to sea on 26 January in accordance with the plan for 1994 to practice combat training tasks. One of the aims of the Black Sea Fleet sailors' training exercise is to provide instruction for their young reinforcements, with 4,500 conscripts from Ukraine among them.

The command of the Black Sea Fleet, in the words of Mykola Savchenko, Ukrainian Navy Press Center head, did not coordinate its actions with respect to this training exercise, either with the Navy commander or the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, which contravenes the accord between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents of 17 June 1993. In particular, it contravenes Article 6, in accordance with which the fleet command was to have notified not only the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the president of Ukraine in advance, but also the leadership of Sevastopol and the Crimea.

Official Doubts Treaty Will Guarantee Security

LD2701215194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2036 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's Commission on Legislation and Law, a leader of the Ukrainian Communist Party, Aleksandr Kotsuba, doubted that the ratification of the Moscow statement of the three presidents (U.S.A., Russia and Ukraine—IF) could "guarantee the total security of Ukraine."

He said in an interview with INTERFAX-Ukraine that it was necessary to consider some provisions of the trilateral statement in the parliament. In his words, it was hard to understand "why primarily the SS-24 missiles controlled by us must be withdrawn from Ukrainian territory and not the obsolete SS-19 which we do not control and cannot launch."

In his opinion, "it was necessary to demand the states-parties to the Helsinki, Paris, Vienna and Lisbon agreements and the UN member-states to participate in the agreement of the three presidents. It is necessary that not only Ukraine give up its missiles but that the other parties also reduce their numbers," Kotsuba pointed out.

He said that the president and the cabinet of ministers through the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry should initiate a number of treaties.

Former Prime Minister Kuchma Views Disarmament Pact

WS2701173094 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 22 Jan 94 p 3

[Interview with former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "The First Serious Test for the Agreement by Three Presidents Will Be Its Ratification"]

[Text] The Moscow meeting of the three presidents that committed Ukraine to getting rid of its nuclear arsenal remains in the limelight of public attention. KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI asked Leonid Kuchma, a politician and expert in missile-building, to comment on the event.

[Reporter] Your opinion about the decision of the Russian, U.S., and Ukrainian presidents is interesting as the position of a politician and, more importantly, as a professional who has spent many years designing and building missiles.

[Kuchma] Let me single out several aspects of this undoubtedly momentous event for Ukraine. It is so important that I think the Ukrainian president should have first consulted with the public before making such a decision. He could then have used some trump cards in his discussions with parliament. Generally speaking,

people should be involved in making such key decisions as this one, so that no one gets the impression that some deal was cut.

Now on to the decision itself. Its first aspect is purely political. It is no secret that over the past two years, deliberately and with the active participation of international media, people have been cultivating the image of Ukraine as a resentful, unstable, and unpredictable partner. Unfortunately, at that time, the world equated our country with such countries as Libya, North Korea, or Iraq. The main directions of this misinformation, and that is putting it mildly, are well known—"communist reserve," "the country of bellicose nationalism," etc. But what really strikes the nerve of Western society is the notion that Ukraine is a "new nuclear monster."

I believe that in the beginning of this year, all conditions were ready for the complete political isolation of Ukraine followed by the liquidation of its independence. This state of things called for a breakthrough, a move capable of refuting at least some of the unfounded accusations thrown at Ukraine. And such a move that invoked positive reaction of the world has been made, I believe.

Secondly, a pretext for uncivilized economic pressure on Ukraine exerted by forces interested in it was removed. At present, one can no longer say that Ukraine poses a threat to Europe or the world, or that it stands in the way of global nuclear disarmament. This is why one needs to change their attitude and language during negotiations with Ukraine.

Third, it is a change in character of general European politics. On the one hand, Ukrainian stubbornness in 1993 made Europe and the whole world aware of its existence and managed to get the point across that it was ready to comply with international agreements—only without hurting itself and with respect to its rights and interests, including economic ones. On the other hand, the hand- twisting practices applied by its partners in negotiations have hardly earned them much credit in Europe, showing that there are "little" and "great" countries in relations among states.

[Reporter] What can you say about the economic aspects of the agreement? Is it good for Ukraine, considering its trade and payment imbalance and growing oil debt to Russia?

[Kuchma] I would rather refrain from making an outright euphoric assessment. Ukraine was granted the right of full participation in nuclear disarmament, enjoying all of its benefits and advantages. Let me also not repeat the widely held belief that Ukraine supposedly received a generous gift. As of now, Ukraine has received nothing more than documented confirmation of its right to receive compensation for giving up its nuclear weapons, which were created to a large extent at the expense of its natural resources, finances, and labor potential. I am not excessively optimistic about the agreement's economic aspects, because I am confused by the all-too-vague terms of Ukraine's admission to the uranium markets, too vague terms and degree of compensation, as well as Bill Clinton's equivocal promises about economic cooperation and unrestrained investments in Ukraine.

Generally speaking, I agree that we undoubtedly saw Europe take a big step toward peace. It is hard to ignore the political significance of the event. However, the way the agreement was signed and the methods applied to reach a consensus were humiliating, not so much for Ukraine as for its overseas partner. In particular, I am sure that Mr. Clinton's tactless remark at Boryspol Airport in Kiev was humiliating to himself, most of all.

[Reporter] As far as I can remember, your position at the closed Supreme Council session in June of last year was slightly different. At that time, you were against Ukraine's nuclear disarmament.

[Kuchma] That is not true. I have always believed that for Ukraine, nonnuclear status is the only correct path for the future. I have always stressed this. However, in June of last year, we were told to disarm without any serious security or territorial guarantees, as well as any hint of compensation. The Ukrainian budget and economy will not survive nuclear disarmament on their own. Let me remind you that it was my government that came up with the proposal to handle the issue of nuclear disarmament in a complex manner, taking into consideration dismantling, transportation, processing, and so on. It was the first to bring up the problem of compensation for tactical missiles and emphasized the need to respect Ukrainian interests and rights in solving the problem of strategic missiles and intercontinental missile silos. I am glad that these rights and interests have eventually been recognized and taken into consideration.

In addition, the agreement provides Ukraine with access to large long-term credits, which would enable the country to establish a stabilization fund for its national currency and, therefore, curb inflation. The latter is the main precondition for saving the Ukrainian economy from collapse and increasing investments into it. One should not think, however, that this will come automatically without a hard work. We have no right to lose our chance, as was the case in 1992, when Ukraine had the potential to overcome the crisis.

[Reporter] What do you think will next happen to the agreement? It was negatively assessed by almost all Ukrainian political parties.

[Kuchma] The agreement's fate will depend on the goodwill of politicians. We know some "patriots" who did not manage to become professionals and whose words and judgments are much faster than their reasoning. At first, they forced the nonnuclear status into the Declaration of Independence, and now, the same people do not want to keep their promise to the people and the world. It would be a good thing to ask them when they were sincere—when they promised an influx of Western money in return for nuclear weapons, or now,

when they want to intimidate everyone with the missiles? In my opinion, their criticism is a result of a lack of political professionalism. Anyway, the first serious test for the agreement of the three presidents will be its ratification by the Ukrainian Supreme Council. I am afraid that, as usual, instead of the document's text or its geopolitical meaning being addressed, the main topics of discussion will be personal squabbles and a clash of interests between the executive and legislative branches.

If we manage to overcome this hurdle, the rest will depend on the goodwill and readiness of the United States and Russia to fulfill their obligations, as well as on our ability to take advantage of this historic opportunity.

Army To Increase Peacekeeping Contingent in FRY

LD2701173394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 27 Jan 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to a decision of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, the Ukrainian contingent of the UN forces in the former Yugoslavia will be doubled in the next few months. Additional personnel and arms are already been sent to the Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo. Despite the considerable losses sustained by the battalion while carrying out its peacekeeping mission—six servicemen have been killed and about 30 wounded over a period of 18 months—there is no shortage of volunteers. This is the only Ukrainian Army military unit in which three to four candidates are competing for each post. Indeed, many parents are asking commanders to send their sons to serve precisely in this subunit. The reason is simple: Each man here gets about 10 times more than the Ukrainian defense minister. For the first time, servicewomen have been included in the new personnel of the battalion. These Ukrainian Amazons will be able, where necessary in combat conditions, render first aid to their male colleagues.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Not Likely To Interfere in Crimea 'Yet'

LD2701154594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1210 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev, 27 Jan—Leonid Kravchuk is most likely not to interfere in the affairs of Simferopol yet. Nor is he likely to make use of the right granted by the Supreme Council to annul the Crimea's legislative acts in the event they are not in accordance with the Ukrainian Constitution. This was a statement made by presidential adviser Mykola Mykhalchenko. In his words, there is now no formal reason for such interference. It is only after the election of the peninsula's president, in the adviser's view, that any specific steps by Kravchuk can be expected in this area.

This was a report by Rukh-Press.

Kravchuk Notes Limitations of Crimean President

LD2701184994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk today gave instructions to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on a number of issues which had been discussed during his meeting with a group of people's deputies of Ukraine from the Republic of Crimea on 24 January. The meeting took place at the request of People's Deputies of Ukraine Matiyko, Reva, Sevastyanov, and Terekhov. Discussed at the meeting were social and economic problems facing the Crimea and also the ways toward improving the crime situation which has of late taken shape there.

During the conversation the people's deputies of Ukraine asked President Kravchuk about his attitude toward the presidential election in Crimea. In this connection Kravchuk said: I respect the right of the electorate to elect the president they want, but if the president of the Crimea Republic violates the law and the Constitution of Ukraine then I, as the president of Ukraine, will use my constitutional plenary powers and take relevant measures to revoke the illegitimate decisions.

This was reported today by the press service of the president of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Official: Crimean Law Must Comply With Constitution

LD2701194194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 27 Jan 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No 18 (508) for 27 January 1994]

[Text] Ukraine will take every step to preserve its territorial integrity if the new Crimean president attempts to redraw the borders and violate the Helsinki agreements, head of the Ukrainian president's service for domestic policy Nikolay Mikhalechenko told Interfax.

"If the law on the president of Crimea goes against the constitutions of Ukraine and Crimea—too bad for this law," he said. He also stated that the provisions of this law must be brought in accordance with Ukrainian and Crimean legislation. "Otherwise, this law will be considered anti-constitutional," he said.

According to the law on the president of Crimea, the president shall have the right to appoint the prosecutor general, chairman of the security service and interior minister, and control the operations of the Ukrainian army in Crimea.

To quote Mikhalechenko, the law on the delimitation of powers between the Ukrainian and Crimean bodies of state authority envisages consultations on the Ukrainian

policy in Crimea, and on the appointment of the prosecutor general, the head of the security service and the commander of the national guard. "Consultations with the parliament, not the president," he said.

He described Russia's approach to the Crimean problems as "carefully weighed-out and realistic." "If a realistic policy is implemented, we shall solve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, and Russian citizens will be able to spend their holidays in Crimea," he said.

Candidate to the post of Crimean president and leader of the Crimean Republican Party Yuriy Meshkov told a press conference in Sevastopol that the results of the first round of elections (during which he scored 38.5

of the votes—Interfax) "are the choice of the people who have lost hope and for whom Russia is the only source of inspiration." "This is not a manifestation of nationalism," he said.

Meshkov believes that the simultaneous holding of the second round of presidential elections in the Crimea, the referendum on the Crimea's status, and the parliamentary elections in Ukraine and Crimea should be held simultaneously on March 27 to save expenses. As we have reported already, the second round of presidential elections in Crimea is scheduled for January 30.

Meshkov also said that there would be no complications between Ukraine and Crimea. "The idea of the referendum does not imply Crimea's secession from Ukraine. Neither does it imply any redrawing of the borders between Ukraine and Russia," he continued. What is actually meant here is the right to take decisions in the sphere of Crimea's economic and cultural relations with Russia, Ukraine and other countries independently, he said. "It is extremely dangerous to adhere to the old policy of Crimea's rigid dependence on Ukraine. We can tackle many of our problems on our own," he said.

To quote Meshkov, measures are taken to establish contacts with the Kiev authorities. "Our representative has already met with the Ukrainian leaders," he said.

He pointed out that Russia treated the developments in Crimea normally. "A hostile attitude to Crimea on the part of Boris Yeltsin is absolutely ruled out. Time will show what his normal attitude will be like," he said.

He noted that he shared the position of the Kuchma-Grinyov bloc because it advocated normal relations between Ukraine and Russia.

Security of Crimea Following Elections Doubted

LD2801115094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1121 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—"Yuriy Meshkov, representing the Russia Bloc, seems to have the best chances at winning the January 30 presidential elections in the Crimea", Emile Payin told ITAR-TASS. Payin is head of the Committee on National Politics under the Russian Presidential Council and a respected political scientist.

The Russian Bloc is made up of political parties who support the reunification of the Crimean Peninsula with the Russian Federation. The Russian Party, the Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assembly, and the Russian Popular Council have been the most active in supporting such a move. And they all have been supporting Yuriy Meshkov for president of the Crimea since February 1993.

What are the possible consequences of their struggle? According to Payin, "it would be impossible to peacefully and legally turn the Crimea over to Russia: Leonid Kravchuk has the right, given to him by the Ukrainian parliament, to overrule any decision taken by the Crimean authorities which contradicts the Ukrainian Constitution and threatens that state's territorial integrity".

The Russian Foreign Ministry has also declared its unwillingness to strain relations between Russian and Ukraine over the Crimean question, taking into account the current situation in both countries.

After his victory in the first round of the presidential elections, Meshkov himself announced that he was not going to insist on the Crimea's withdrawal from Ukraine and unification with Russia. Meshkov intends to fight for equality between Ukraine and Russia in Crimean matters, especially concerning the Black Sea Fleet, according to Payin's assesment.

No matter what the results of the voting are, Payin predicts that ethnic tensions in the region will rise. However, he emphasized that, "any expected result in the elections at the current stage will not be cause for a reexamination of the Crimea's fate or status".

Despite Russia's determination not to inflame the subject, Payin is sure that "the election results will not bring the Crimea reconciliation, since it is completely possible that those groups who are unsuccessful in the elections will step up their illegal political activities. Despite the balanced position occupied by Kiev and Moscow, there are forces in both Russia and Ukraine who have a lot to gain from destabilising the political situation. These are the "soldiers of fortune", who have already shown up in the Dniester area, Abkhazia, and other regions of conflict", the presidential advisor explained.

Crimean Presidential Candidate Meets Reporters

WS2701170394 Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 94 p 1

[T. Ryabchikova report on news conference by Yuriy Meshkov, candidate for Crimean president, with unidentified reporters in Simferopol on 18 January: "'Meshkov Is Okay,' Said Journalists After News Conference"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday in Simferopol, a news conference was held by Yuriy Aleksandrovich Meshkov, a candidate for president of the Crimea, in the Afghanistan War Veterans Club.

In his introductory remarks, Yu. A. Meshkov read a statement: "Based on the preliminary results of the 16 January elections, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Crimean voters who have confided in me and have thus demonstrated their solid civic position.

"Your choice permits me to say that the people of the Crimea—who have rejected the old nomenclature laws—favor democratic changes, a close union with Russia and other CIS states, and a better life in general. Over the last few years, we have been fighting together for all these values.

"I would like to reassure all citizens of the Crimea that the victory of a representative of the political coalition 'Russia' will not sharpen our relations with Ukraine, while, at the same time, our relations with Russia will receive new stimulus.

"I am addressing you, my esteemed citizens of the Crimea, with gratitude and hope that you will support me in the future. Please, vote again on 30 January and reaffirm your choice. I am sure that you and I will be able to change our lives for the better."

Yu. Meshkov then answered a lot of question from journalists.

[Reporter] Do you believe that Kiev can prevent the run-off election on 30 January?

[Meshkov] I have strong confidence in President Kravchuk, who excludes such violent methods in policy. You know his viewpoint on the presidential elections in the Crimea—these elections are legal. I believe that President Kravchuk will keep his word.

[Reporter] Will you dismiss former officials?

No, said Yuriy Aleksandrovich, a lot of them are experts in their fields. It is easier to destroy than to build. Therefore, I will not take their party membership into consideration. Only one criterion will be a factor, and that is professionalism.

[Reporter] What do you think about astrologists?

[Meshkov] I view them with humor.

One of my colleagues noticed that Meshkov did not correspond to his image of a war hawk. So, what about the image?

Yuriy Aleksandrovich answered that the image of being a militarist and a separatist has nothing to do with him because it was invented by his opponents.

Crimean Candidate Refuses Debate With Rival

LD2801103594 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0830 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The radio and television debates between Nikolay Bagrov and Yuriy Meshkov, the candidates for the post of president of Crimea, planned for today and tomorrow will not now take place. In an official statement on his refusal, Yuriy Meshkov accused his opponent of using state media funds to discredit other candidates for the post of president. In Meshkov's opinion, this propaganda machine is now aimed at him. In addition there have been threats against him and his family. In such conditions, Yuriy Meshkov believes, it is impossible to take part in a discussion at the same table as Nikolay Bagrov.

Supreme Council Discusses Draft Socioeconomic Plan

LD2801124194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2320 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev, 27 Jan—At the evening sitting of the Supreme Council session, deputies discussed the draft plan for the economic and social development of Ukraine for 1994 and the draft state budget. Andrey Pecherov, chairman of the standing commission for issues of planning, finances, the budget, and prices, particularly noted in his speech that a change of parliament would inevitably occur. It is not ruled out that the functions of the president could be changed this year. There is in fact no prime minister or institution for managing the economy. Under these conditions it is necessary to confirm the fundamental indicators of both the plan and the budget. Pecherov proposed that the state budget be compiled for the year, but with confirmation every quarter. He assured the deputies that specialists are guaranteeing the implementation of indicators for both the plan and the budget. Touching on the proposals made by commissions concerning the expenditure part of the budget, Pecherov stressed that expenditure on the Army does not meet today's needs and contradicts military doctrine. This expenditure for 1994 is envisaged at 16,823,610,000,000 karbovantsi. On behalf of the commission, Pecherov proposed that the military part of the budget be reexamined by the Defense Council and presented to parliament for confirmation by 15 April.

As regards pensions the commission chairman proposed that the pension fund be transferred from the Ministry of Social Protection to the Ministry of Finance, and that tough controls be established. The Commission for Issues of Planning, the Budget, Finance, and Prices made this proposal: "Until order is brought to the system of payment for labor in the national economy, to make additional payments as from 1 January to specialists in education, science, culture, health care, social security, and physical education, to the level of the average monthly wage of employees in the national economy as a whole, and to finance the said expenditure by general

grants from the budget. On average 21 billion karbovantsi per month are needed for this, and approximately 12 trillion per year. The commission proposes that the government elaborates a procedure within two weeks for paying the said increases."

Deputy Pecherov subjected the actions of the government to harsh criticism. The government does not want to assume responsibility. If this continues, noted Pecherov, then we will have nothing to discuss with the government.

Deputies Vote on Plan

LD2801142094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev—People's deputies discussed the draft state budget for 1994 at this morning's plenary sitting of the Supreme Council. According to People's Deputy Mykola Biloblotskyy, a deficit-free budget reminds one of a book with a nice cover, but without the equivalent content. People's Deputy Mykola Naumenko proposed that the 14 trillion karbovantsi, which he predicts will be the deficit of the pension fund in 1994, be transferred to the budget. "It is about financing the superstructure of the state, said people's deputy Ruslan Bodelan. Compared to 1993, expenditure on defense is being increased by 5.82 times, on law enforcement bodies by 6.88 times, on bodies of legislative authority by 17 times, and executive authority by almost 6 times. However, it is planned to increase expenditure on social protection only by 2.28 times."

Many deputies spoke about a concealed defecit, which is being transferred to local budgets, and about the reduction of expenditure on the needs of Chernobyl sufferers. Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, acting prime minister of Ukraine, called on deputies "not to fear administrative measures."

The Supreme Council adopted a resolution "On the plan for the economic and social development of Ukraine for 1994," which confirms the fundamental indicators of the plan, and establishes the personal responsibility of the Cabinet of Ministers and other executive bodies for their implementation. The Cabinet of Ministers is obliged to report to the Supreme Council every quarter on the implementation of this plan.

The people's deputies voted on the law "On the state budget of Ukraine for 1994" four times, but it did not get the required number of votes. Amendments and additions to many legislative acts were made, in particular to the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Practice of Ukraine, regarding economic crimes, deliberate tax evasion, currency regulation, and currency control, and also to the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers on issues of customs regulation, to the Customs Code of Ukraine, and to the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers "On the procedure for imposing customs duty on objects being taken out of the country." A resolution was adopted, "on a list of goods subject to excise duty," and others.

Plenary sittings of the Supreme Council will continue on 1 February.

Parliament Passes Privatization Resolution

LD2701130094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2245 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev, 26 January—At the Supreme Council's morning session deputies passed a Supreme Council resolution on the state privatization program. It consists of five points:

1. To approve the state privatization program.

2. The Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea and Congresses of People's Deputies of all levels should elaborate and approve by 1 March 1994 corresponding regional privatization programs based on the state program.

3. The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, jointly with the Supreme Council commission for issues of economic reform and management of the national economy, is to prepare and submit for the Supreme Council's consideration by 1 March proposals on introducing changes and additions to Ukraine's legislative acts with the aim of creating conditions for the implementation of the state privatization program for 1994 and ensure that the interests of the socially unprotected strata of Ukraine's population are protected.

4. The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers is to prepare by 15 February and submit for the Supreme Council's consideration the draft law on privatization of land plots and proposals on introducing additions to the criminal code and Ukraine's code on administrative violations in the part that relates to imposing sanctions for violating the privatization legislation.

5. The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers is instructed to ensure that a single computer information network for implementing privatization and a single data base on privatization facilities is created by 1 April 1994.

People's Deputy Popov, the head of the commission on basic sectors of the national economy, made a speech. He informed deputies about the situation that had arisen with regard to "Blasko" Black Sea shipping company. An analysis of the activities of the Black Sea shipping company for the first six months of 1993 had indicated a 16-fold drop in the level of annual clear hard currency receipts, compared with 1992. The total indebtedness of the Black Sea shipping company to the state budget is 106 billion karbovantsi. The hard currency debt of the Black Sea shipping company over nine months of 1993 was $5.6 million. Information about the construction of an administrative building for $10 million, the purchase of a nine seater luxury plane, and the construction of a business center for more than $3 million was confirmed. The commission qualified these actions as an "irresponsible and inexpedient use of state property and funds that led to material losses for the state in the form of state enterprises." "Some irregularities in the way the

accounts were kept give grounds to suspect the existence of 'double accountancy,' which enabled those responsible to avoid paying tens of millions of dollars to Ukraine's hard currency fund," said Popov.

The conclusions that Popov made in his speech were: Such actions "forced the commission to approve a demand to the cabinet of ministers to dismiss Ukrainian Transport Minister Klympush and the president of "Blasko," Mr. Kudyukin, from their posts."

Parliament Resolution on Shipping Company

LD2701172794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1210 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev, 27 Jan—The Supreme Council has completed deliberations on the issue of inspecting the activity of the Black Sea Shipping Company—concern BLASCO [Black Sea Shipping Co.]. Having heard and discussed a report from the Committee for Issues of the Development of the National Economy's Fundamental Industries, delivered by Committee Chairman Mykola Popov, the Supreme Council of Ukraine resolved:

1. In the period ending 15 April, the Cabinet of Ministers is to submit for the Supreme Council's consideration draft laws regulating merchant marine in Ukraine.

2. The Cabinet of Ministers is to analyze the state of affairs at Ukraine's sea transport and subsequently determine the optimum scheme of its functioning. In the period ending 1 July, it is to draw up a national program of developing and ensuring the viability of the merchant fleet.

3. In the period ending 1 March, the Finance Ministry is to draw up and introduce enforceable methodological documents relating to currency funds movement accounting and currency funds spending control at sea transport.

4. In the period ending 1 May, the Finance Ministry and the Justice Ministry together with the Internal Affairs Ministry, the Security Service of Ukraine, and the Office of the Procurator General, are to carry out a comprehensive financial and managerial audit of all bookkeeping accounts, material wealth, and credit and commercial agreements of ASK [presumably Aksionernyy Sudnoplavnyy Kontsern, joint stock shipping concern] BLASCO.

5. Due to serious drawbacks in their work, nonconfidence is hereby expressed in Ukrainian Transport Minister Orest Klympush, and the ASK BLASCO president and Pavlo Kudyukin, head of the Black Sea Shipping Company.

6. In the period ending 1 March, the Cabinet of Ministers is to consider the issue of the correspondence to their posts of individuals who made possible hasty and tendentious conclusions to be drawn in the government commission's document on inspecting the activity of the Black Sea Shipping Company in the period between 1987 and 1992.

7. Due to the fact that there occurred a violation of law in dismissing People's Deputy Viktor Pylypenko from the post of the head of the Black Sea Shipping Company, the Cabinet of Ministers is hereby instructed to take the necessary steps to restore justice in respect of Deputy Pylypenko.

8. The inspection materials and conclusions of the Supreme Council committee are to be passed to the Office of the Procurator General of Ukraine for relevant measures to be taken and information to be provided for the Supreme Council within the term of six months.

It is to be written down in the minutes that the Standing Committees for Issues of the Development of the National Economy's Fundamental Industries, for Issues of Law and Order and the Fight against Crime, for Issues of Defense and State Security and the commission of deputies for issues of the fight against corruption and organized crime, are hereby instructed to exercise control over the implementation of this resolution.

Signing of Nuclear Treaty May Be Deferred

LD2701185094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] If the Ukrainian parliament refuses to join the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons [NPT], this may lead to a conflict between the republic's legislative and executive branches of power. This was said to Interfax by a high-ranking official from the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk called upon the parliament to ratify the START I and to sign the treaty on nonproliferation on January 24.

According to the diplomat, the parliament's plenary session may finish on Monday with no decision made on the president's proposal. This will mean that the settlement of the issue will be deferred for an undetermined period of time.

"The Russian president suspended the Supreme Soviet's powers and assumed its authority for the period of transition," the diplomat remarked. "However, the Ukrainian Constitution does not mention the right of the president to sign documents on joining international treaties in the period of parliamentary elections," he emphasized.

Deputy Ukrainian Foreign Minister Boris Tarasuk said that the withdrawal of nuclear military charge from Ukrainian territory would continue until the guaranteed terms for their utilization expired.

Conventional Weapons Elimination Continues

LD2701212994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry's press service reports:

In compliance with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Ukraine continues to reduce its conventional armaments. Since the beginning of this year, four international inspection groups have already visited our state. They familiarized themselves with the practical implementation of the treaty provisions. They visited the Lvov, Nikolayev, Kiev, and Zhitomir armored vehicle repair plants. In the near future, 100 tanks and 60 armored fighting vehicles will be liquidated at these enterprises.

Army Fuel Shortage Reduces Personnel Training

PM2801115094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By Vladimir Plotnikov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The generals have developed various options for Ukraine's territorial defense without leaving their headquarters. Guns, tanks, and other combat equipment has also remained at the dpots, first because no orders have been given and, second, because there are no fuels or lubricants. It was for this reason that the movement of combat vehicles has been stopped or reduced to the absolute minimum. To study instruments on tanks, for example, they are not started up but simply given an electric charge. In other words, the Ukrainian army has found itself in the grips of an energy crisis, just like the whole of the country's national economic complex. Firing from an ordinary rifle is virtually the only accessible element of fire training.

Yet over the same period rumors have spread in Ukraine that large-scale military exercises are being conducted in Crimea.

[Crimean Supreme Council Chairman N. Bagrov] Any exercises on Crimean territory are coordinated with the Supreme Council and the Presidium. I repeat that the reports you mention are disinformation. No exercises are being conducted on Crimea's territory.

Belarus

Presidium Nominates Candidates for Post of Speaker

TASS Reports Three Candidates

LD2801101694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 28 TASS—Three lawmakers remained in the list of candidates for the post of the Belarusian speaker after consultations among lawmakers, self-nominations and refusal of some candidates to join the race.

First Deputy Speaker Vyacheslav Kuznetsov told the parliament on Friday [28 January] that the three are Mechislaw Hryb, chairman of the parliamentary commission on national security, defence and anti-crime fight, Mikhail Marynych, deputy chairman of the state committee on foreign economic relations, and lawmaker Viktar Hanchar. Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich refused to vie the post.

Hryb and Marynych were nominated by the presidium of the parliament which held a meeting on Thursday and which was attended by Kebich and heads of republic's regions.

The presidium also nominated three other candidates—Nikolay Voytenkov, head of the Gomel region, Viktor Danilenko, the ambassador in Russia, and Vladimir Rusakevich, deputy head of the Brest region. However, the three immediately announced that they quit the race.

Hanchar was nominated by Aleksandr Lukashenko who initiated the no-confidence vote to former speaker Stanislav Shushkevich.

Other candidates nominated by lawmakers included Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, Chairman of the Party of Popular Accord Gennadiy Karpenko and Ambassador in Latvia Valentin Velichko. However, they all withdrew themselves from the list.

Other Candidates for Chairman Post

WS2801114494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] This morning, the people's deputies began to discuss candidacies for the post of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet chairman. The Supreme Soviet Presidium session, held with the participation of Prime Minister Kebich and the heads of the oblast executive committees, has nominated five candidates for the speaker post: Mikalay Vaytsyankow, Myachyslaw Hryb, Mikhail Marynych, Viktar Danilenka, and Uladzimir Lysakevich. However, the list was not complete. Today, the people's deputies added to this list Vyacheslav Kebich, Hyenadz Karpyenka, Viktar Hanchar, and Valantsin Vyalichka. The majority of the candidates refused to accept their nomination. Thus, the list of candidates for the speaker post includes three names: Myachyslaw Hryb, head of a parliamentary commission; Mikhail Marynych, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; and People's Deputy Viktar Hanchar.

Candidates' Biographies Reported

LD2801122894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 28 TASS—The Belarussian parliament is electing its chairman today. According to the BELINFORM information, the results of the voting may be announced at 03.30, local time. Three candidates are on the list: Myachyslaw Hryb, Mikhail Marynych and Viktar Hanchar.

Myachyslaw Hryb, 57, a professional lawyer, from a peasant family. His father was killed during the war. Hryb finished the Interior Ministry school and later reached the rank of general and the post of head of the Interior Ministry department at the executive committee of the regional council (soviet) of the Vitebsk region. He has been a deputy of the Belarusian parliament since 1990. Hryb is heading the Permanent Commission for National Security, Defence and Anti-Crime Struggle. He is the supporter of strong power, of the introduction of executive Presidency in Belarus and of the ratification of the collective security treaty. He maintains that, when discharging his duties in parliament, he tries not to be guided by political likes and dislikes, but to be business-like and objective. "We have all come from the past, but we should look forward," he said.

Mikhail Marynych, 53, was born in the Gomel region, graduated from the Belarusian Polytechnical Institute. He worked his way up from the job of a plumber to the post of Minsk mayor. At present he is deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. He is a centrist by his political views. Marynych favours the consolidation of forces for getting the national economy out of the crisis and for reforming it.

Viktor Hanchar, 36, is the youngest of the candidates. He is a professional lawyer and an assistant professor. He worked for a long time at the Institute of National Economy (now it is the Belarusian Economic Academy) and became popular thanks to his active stand in parliament, brief and clear statements. He is often called Belarusian Sobchak. Hanchar is an active supporter of a market-based economy, of attracting a new generation of leaders for managing the state and the national economy, who are not burdened with the stereotyped notions typical of the past. During the past several years he has been a deputy mayor of the city of Molodechno. Many

specialists, including foreign ones, believe that Molodechno has made an impressive headway in the creation of a market-based economy.

Shushkevich Absent From Current Parliament Session

LD2801125794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 28 TASS—Ousted speaker of the Belarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich is absent at the current session of the parliament which is to elect a new country's leader.

Sources in his close entourage said he is staying in his countryside residence in order "to quietly, without emotions consider what has happened and how to act".

Spokesman of the Belarusian parliament Vasiliy Vorobev hinted that Shushkevich would hardly agree to become the chairman of the CIS Parliamentary Assembly, the post proposed to him by Vladimir Shumeyko, the speaker of the Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament.

The post was earlier occupied by former Russian speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov who was arrested after the October opposition rebellion in Moscow.

Vorobev said that the statement of Shushkevich's adviser who said that the former leader might accept the post "reflects mostly the personal opinion of the adviser, rather than of Stanislav Shushkevich".

However, Vorobev said that he had not spoken with Shushkevich on the subject and added that it is too early to make any predictions.

Prime Minister, Officials View Shushkevich Ouster

Kebich: Monetary Union Not To Be Affected

WS2701193394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Today, Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich gave what was probably the scantest interview of his life. Asked by a BELINFORM correspondent whether the dismissal of Stanislav Shushkevich from the office of Supreme Soviet chairman will affect the upcoming signing of documents on the unification of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems, he simply said: No.

Kravchanka Affirms 'Unchanged' Foreign Policy

WS2801085494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka has met with the heads of diplomatic missions in the Republic of Belarus. The head of the Foreign Ministry informed them of the results of the no-confidence vote in Stanislav Shushkevich. He also emphasized that the course of Belarusian foreign policy remains unchanged and complies with international agreements which were signed by Belarus, including, first of all, the agreements on nuclear disarmament.

People's Deputies Express Opinions

WS2701145694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Interview with People's Deputies Vasil Chepik, Viktar Alampiyew, and Alyaksandr Lyadko, by Mikhail Rudkowki; place and date not given—recorded; passages in boldface are in Russian]

[Text] [Rudkowski] What is your opinion of the dismissal of Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, and who is your choice to replace him in this high state post?

[Chepik] **First of all, I want this interview to be transmitted to our radio listeners in its full extent. I think that last night's session was nothing out of ordinary. It is a normal course of developments. I only regret that it occurred so late. In confirmation of this, I can say that the situation in the Republic of Belarus—especially in the economic arena— has become extremely difficult during the period we were under the leadership of Stanislav Stanislavovich [Shushkevich]; it has reached a critical point. The work of the Supreme Soviet was paralyzed. Practically, we were concerned more with demagogy than concrete legislative work. The work of the Supreme Soviet Presidium was also paralyzed. As a result—we have all those negative phenomena within society. Therefore, I see that a normal process has begun at last.**

[Rudkowski] You did not answer the second question—who is your choice to assume this post?

[Chepik] **I cannot specify names today. However, I see many talented candidates, including deputies as well, who are qualified to deal with this task more successfully than our former speaker did.**

[Rudkowski] Whom do you have in mind?

[Chepik] **I have in mind chairmen of the oblast executive committees, chairmen of various [Supreme Soviet] commissions, and other people's deputies. I cannot answer this question right now, because we are now conducting political consultations.**

[Rudkowski] I have also invited People's Deputy Viktar Alampiyew to speak. The question I asked earlier is now directed to you.

[Alampiyew] **I will use the words of Vladimir Ilyich [Lenin]: A Bolsheviks' dream, which was nourished by them over the last two years, has come true. At last, they decided to throw out the umbrella, under which they were**

staying all the time—that is to say, Stanislav Shushkevich, a sole democrat in power. Now they took the lead in their own hands. With respect to a new Supreme Soviet chairman, I can say frankly that I do not see any candidate among the current Supreme Soviet body. It would be better to leave this choice to either a newly elected Supreme Soviet or a direct general ballot. In the latter case, none of political factions in the parliament will be able to [word indistinct] the speaker, as was done by the Belarus faction with regard to Mr. Shushkevich.

[Rudkowski] I also pose the same question to People's Deputy Alyaksandr Lyadko.

[Lyadko] I regret very much that the people's deputies voted against Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich last night. The Belarusian nation is one, and we all have to live and work in this nation. There must be accord between communists and Belarusian Popular Movement adherents. I would hope that this post is given to someone with Shushkevich's political views; I also wish that there were peace in Belarus, and that we were able to work for the welfare of Belarus.

Officers Union Thanks Deputies for Ouster

WS2801085394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The Council of the Officers' Union of Belarus has issued a statement thanking the people's deputies for expressing their nonconfidence in Shushkevich as one of the gravediggers of the USSR. This step is recognized by the Officers' Union as a beginning of the path toward condemning the Viskuli [location where Yeltsin, Kravchuk, and Shushkevich signed agreement to create CIS] plot.

Titkin: Economic Policy To Remain the Same

LD2801122294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1208 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Krushinsky]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—Those who favour closer economic integration between Russia and Belarus do not feel that Stanislav Shushkevich's removal as head of the Belarusian parliament is the final blow to their plans.

Well-known Russian business executive and entrepeneur and parliament member Aleksandr Titkin is sure that Belarus's foreign economic policy will remain unchanged as long as the republic's government is headed by common-sensed Vyacheslav Kebich.

Although Titkin could not foresee what would happen if Kebich were to be forced out of his job, he hopes that common sense will carry the day in the Belarusian government. Titkin said Belarus is less subject to nationalist passions than many of its neighbors.

Titkin expressed the opinion that the merging of the Belarusian and Russian economies should be carried out carefully, without haste, in order to shield the Russian economy from additional problems. In particular, he said it is essential for Russia to avoid handing out hidden subsidies to its western neighbor, and to avoid pressure from the "Belarusian" roubles on the internal Russian market (in case the two states' monetary systems are merged).

"I even think it would be better if the Belarusian "rabbit" notes remained in circulation for the initial stage, until we come to complete agreement on tax, pricing, and tariff policy", Titkin announced.

45-year old Titkin was head of a financial investment company, Russian investment technologies, until the December 12 elections. As deputy in the federation council, he has begun to work on the finances committee, which is responsible for the budget, financial, currency, credit and tax policy, monetary emission, and customs regulations.

Expert Views Economic Relations With United States

WS2801113894 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 2

[Interview with Vladimir Radkevich, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, by Larisa Grigorovich; place and date not given: "Belarus-United States: Partnership Across the Ocean"]

[Text] [Radkevich] A package of documents was submitted for adoption by the U.S. and Belarusian leaders [during President Clinton's visit to Belarus]. The most important of them was the Agreement on Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investments. The drafting of the document demanded maximum efforts on the part of the two sides and lasted for almost a year. Representatives of more than 30 ministries and departments participated in debates over this key document, all the preliminary drafts were discussed at the sessions of the Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers committees.

[Grigorovich] Could you brief us on the legal basis of this document? Have there been any problems in drafting it?

[Radkevich] The document creates a legal basis for the involvement and efficient use in Belarus of the vast potential of U.S. investments. Regardless of the firm and often uncompromising stance of the U.S. side, we managed to alter the text of the agreement adjusting it to the real state of affairs in the economy and to Belarusian laws.

By the way, before signing the agreement with Belarus, the United States signed bilateral agreements on promotion and mutual protection of investments with Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova.

[Grigorovich] As is known, according to the Belarusian-U.S. agreement on trade relations signed in February 1993, the sides granted each other the status of most favored nation. What effect did it have on our relations?

[Radkevich] This in particular means that Belarusian enterprises and companies do not have to pay higher customs duty for exporting their products to the United States. In addition, our products enjoy all the privileges granted to other states.

Belarus would receive other privileges had it joined the U.S. General System of Preferences, temporarily exempting certain categories of products from customs duty. Prime Minister V. Kebich once sent a letter to the United States regarding this issue. Unfortunately, for some reason, President Clinton made no declaration concerning Belarusian admission to this system. Yet, we are continuing to work in that direction.

[Grigorovich] What is your opinion about other agreements and accords discussed and signed during Clinton's talks with the Belarusian leadership?

[Radkevich] I want to underline that during the talks the U.S. side promised to increase financial aid to Belarus within the framework of the Nunn-Lugar Law to $100 million, although the agreement signed by the Belarusian defense minister and the U.S. secretary of defense stipulated $63. 56 million. This project envisions realigning military technologies and potential to civilian tracks and establishing an exports control system. The latter is to prevent the proliferation of mass annihilation armaments from Belarus to other states and to restore the environment at former strategic missile facilities. Belarus is to provide material and technical assistance and services necessary to establish a communications hot-line with the Republic. A further increase in assistance will depend on the progress of economic reform in Belarus, including privatization and denationalization.

I would like to point out that Belarus will not receive these financial means in "monetary" form—they will be apparatuses for discovering nuclear substances and narcotics, communication equipment for customs checkpoints, and the like.

[Grigorovich] Will any joint structures and organs be formed to step up our economic relations?

[Radkevich] Belarus and the United States have agreed to form a bilateral committee for promoting business. Its efforts will be directed at revealing and resolving problems hampering business activities. The committee will be headed by U.S. Department of Commerce Adviser Jan Kalicki and S. Atroshchenko, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

A U.S. business center will be opened in Minsk. The project has been approved by the United States Agency for International Development. The opening of the center is scheduled for the first half of 1994. The U.S. Congress has already earmarked $7 million for establishing business centers in Russia and other CIS states. The share for Belarus is $1 million.

[Grigorovich] On the eve of President Clinton's visit to Minsk, the Belarusian Ministry of Finance reportedly signed a general accord with the U.S. Exports and Imports Bank on stimulating projects.

[Radkevich] The signing of this agreement was preceded by strenuous work. We are very grateful to the U.S. Embassy in Minsk for the assistance they rendered.

All in all, our Republic may receive some $1 billion from the credit line opened by the Eximbank for Belarus. Only those projects will be subsidized whose priority meaning for the national economy will be confirmed by the Belarusian Ministry of Finance and the National Bank.

[Grigorovich] How do you assess the general state of Belarusian-U.S. relations?

[Radkevich] Relations between our states have been constantly expanding and developing. Preliminary data demonstrate that the aggregate products turnover between Belarus and the United States reached $126 million in 1993. The U.S. credit line has been fully utilized, which gives grounds to hope that it will be expanded in the future. U.S. business circles have been manifesting a growing interest in our Republic. As of today, U.S. companies have invested in 123 Belarusian enterprises; 18 firms have opened their branches in Belarus.

Belarus feels the U.S. support on the international arena, especially in such influential economic organizations as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the IMF, which allocated $226.3 million to Belarus in 1993.

Center Refuses To Host Yegorov, Shirkovskiy News Conference

WS2701142594 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1222 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The press conference which was supposed to be held by Belarusian Interior Minister Vladimir Yegorov and KGB Chairman Eduard Shirkovskiy at 1500 [1300 GMT] on 27 January has been called off. As BELAPAN has learned, the management of the National Press Center has withheld its consent to hold the news conference, explaining that the ministers are just "private people." At the press center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a BELAPAN correspondent has learned that, in connection with the dismissal of [Supreme Soviet Chairman] Stanislav Shushkevich, Vladimir Yegorov considers the press conference ill-timed. Nevertheless, the Journalists' Union of Belarus is currently working on holding such a press conference.

Moldova

Speaker: Unification With Romania 'Will Lead to War'

LD2701184494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1831 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 27 TASS—"The proclamation of unification with Romania in defiance of the will of the majority of citizens of Moldova will lead to war which will not be limited by the republic's borders and will develop into a regional conflict," Petr Luchinskiy, chairman of the Moldova's Parliament, told a news conference here today.

According to the parliamentary speaker, such a development of events is possible if parliamentary elections in Moldova scheduled for February 27, will be won by the parties coming out in favor of the unification with Romania.

"If the parliament adopts the decision on the unification with Romania, then the Dniester region and Gagauzia will secede from Moldova, and hotbeds of tension will arise in Chisinau and Beltsy (city in the north of Moldova), as well as in some northern areas with concentrated population of national minorities," Petru Luchinskiy stressed.

The chairman of the parliament believes that strengthening of state independence of Moldova is now the only possibility to evade bloodshed in the republic where almost one third of the population is represented by other nationalities. "Moldova is supported in this by the world community which is interested in the preservation of peace and stability on the Balkans where the war is raging," the speaker pointed out.

Petru Luchinskiy believes that a crisis situation is forming in the left bank districts of Moldova. Commander of the 14th Russian Army, General Lebed, accused the Tiraspol leaders of corruption but in response to this the Tiraspol leaders imposed a special state in the region "seeking to isolate themselves from the outer world."

At the same time, the head of the Parliament of Moldova is convinced that the crisis in the Dniester region may be settled in the near future.

Dniester Government Responds to Lebed Comments

AU2701151894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1757 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/1/1994—The press service of Dniester president and government issued today a communique about the recent meeting of general Aleksandr Lebed, commander of 14th Army, with representatives of Women's Committee in Tiraspol, Tighina (Bender) and Grigoriopol. The communique states that Lebed has called the Dniester leaders "alcoholics and mafiosi who sold and lost in booze-ups the Moldovan Dniester Republic." He said that "the direct presidential governing is now introduced in Dniester and the Soviets will be dissolved; as a consequence the Moldovan Dniester republic disappears until February 28th. Russia has its problems and no one will be concerned about Dniester as long as the present leadership is at power." According to the communique, Lebed also stated that Dniester did not need its own army and that the Dniester Ministry of Defence required too much armament from the 14th Army.

Talks on 14th Army Withdrawal Postponed

AU2701133094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1757 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 26/1/1994—The 8th round of Moldovan-Russian talks on the statute, conditions and agenda of the 14th Army retreat, planned for the end of February in Chisinau has been postponed, stated to BASA Lieutenant Colonel Anatol Cosciug, head of Military Politics and Treaties Section of the Moldovan Defense Ministry. Cosciug specified that for the time being the parties failed to establish the day of beginning the talks, since presently the retreat is discussed at the highest level. The previous round was postponed because Russia demanded to grant special juridical statute to Moldova east regions as a condition for the Army's withdrawal.

Kazakhstan

Ambassador in Iran Says Nuclear Weapons Will Be Kept

LD2801111594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058 GMT 28 Jan 94

["Urgent" item—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran January 28 TASS—"Kazakhstan bears responsibility for its nuclear weapons itself. It does not intend to eliminate them or transfer them to other places until the non-use of such weapons is guaranteed at the world level and the planet gets rid of them", Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Iran Myrzadai Zholdasbekov said in an interview with the Iranian "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" newspaper.

The ambassador added that he was expressing the official position of Kazakhstan about which U.S. President Bill Clinton will be informed during President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to the United States.

The Kazakh Embassy in Tehran opened on January 25.

First Naval Base Planned Near Bautino

PM2801120694 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "Kazakhstan Embarks on Creation of First Naval Base"]

[Text] It will be sited on the shores of the Caspian Sea near the village of Bautino. This is where the 1st Separate Division, which will lay the foundations of the Kazakhstani Navy—intended to protect the Caspian coastal zone—will anchor. The Kazakhstani Defense Ministry has announced that the republic's warships will be built at its own shipyards.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Foresees Economic Independence With Russia's Help

LD2701195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev believes that his country can truly become economically independent only with assistance from Russia. Speaking at a press conference in Bishkek on Thursday [27 January], the president emphasized that the arrival of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin planned for February "would assist with settlement of the issues concerning support of Kyrgyz industrial enterprises which directly depend on economic relations with Russia." "If we break these relations, there is a risk for the Kyrgyz to go back to their traditional nomadic life of cattle breeders," the president pointed out.

For the time being, it is impossible to resolve the current economic issues, like supplies of equipment and fuel material and lubricants, without the assistance provided by Russia. This also threatens the future of agriculture.

In connection with this, the president emphasized that double citizenship would conform with the interests in preserving the economic potential of Kyrgyzstan, since this would help to maintain the working potential of plants where most workers were Russians. He refuted the assertion that this might lead to destabilization of inter-ethnic relations.

Commenting on the changes in the Russian Government, the Kyrgyz president said that the situation should not be exaggerated. "The reforms in Russia will continue since now they are irreversible," Akayev pointed out. In his opinion, Chernomyrdin was the man who could carry out the policy of economic reforms in Russia.

Akayev Issues Appeal for Support

LD2801113494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek January 28 TASS—Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev issued today an appeal to the Kyrgyz people entitled "I am guiltless before people and before my own conscience." He took this step in connection with a referendum, scheduled for January 30, which should give an answer to the question: Can the president continue to discharge his duties or not? The reason for the referendum is that the Kyrgyz Constitution, adopted on May 5, made illegitimate all branches of power existing in the republic, which was used as a pretext by the forces opposing Akayev. As a politician, the president decided to resolve the problem with the help of a nationwide referendum.

Akayev explained the essence of his policy in the appeal. He maintains that "now the majority of people in our republic and all political forces favour a market-based economy, economic freedom for the strong and social protection for the week." Despite a rather difficult economic situation in the republic and the continuing decline of living standards, the president believes that "solid economic preconditions have been created for the people to feel the first accomplishments, brought by our economic reform, in 1994, for us to start living just a little better."

"If the Kyrgyz people support me at the popular referendum, I shall stick to the policy of reform, the policy which will ensure, in the long run, the well-being of our people and the prosperity of the republic," Akayev stressed in the appeal.

Armenia

Karabakh Fighting Shifting Toward Northern Front

NC2701141294 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has reported relative calm in all the border regions of Armenia since last night.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Headquarters has reported that fierce battles are going on in the north of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon, along the Seydlar, Chatly, and Kamyshly line. The Azerbaijani side has sent a large force to the front and, despite huge losses, is still trying to break through the defensive line of the Karabakh fighters at any cost. The Karabakh side first checked the relentless pressure before launching a counter-attack, sending the enemy back. There are losses on both sides. Casualty figures are being determined.

The situation is also tense in Mardakertskiy Rayon, where fierce fighting is taking place near Tonashen.

Only positional exchanges of fire are occurring on the rest of the war fronts.

Further Details on Fighting

NC2701142694 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1239 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Army resumed its attacks on the south and southeast of the Karabakh war front today. The fighting is also continuing in the north of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. The Karabakh formations are preventing the enemy troops from penetrating the Armenian positions.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Press Service reported that three civilians were killed and five wounded in yesterday's shelling of Martuni with Grad rockets. The shelling resumed today. We have no information on the consequences of shelling.

Azerbaijani warplanes attacked settlements in Askeranskiy Rayon yesterday. There are casualties.

Azeri Occupation Claim Denied

NC2701145494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] In a statement to a NOYAN TAPAN correspondent, Marsel Petrosyan, the head of the Nagorno-Karabakh Press and Information Service, described as unfounded a report on the occupation of Kelbadzhar by Azerbaijani troops. Various news agencies disseminated the report citing Azerbaijani sources.

No Extra Arms From Russia Shipped

NC2701160294 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Quoting official sources at the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, TURAN reported that the dispatch of military hardware and arms from Russia to Armenia has been stepped up in recent days. According to Azerbaijani intelligence data, the arms and military hardware are being flown from Sochi to Gyumri on board military cargo planes. The same source says the Russian military cargo planes are carrying out around 30 flights a day.

TURAN claims that Armenia has already received a few dozen modern tanks from Russia. According to the news agency, the arms dispatch was stepped up following Armenian defeats on the battlefront.

As proof, TURAN cites an AFP correspondent in Armenia claiming that officials in Yerevan are not hiding that the flow of military hardware from Russia became possible after Yegor Gaydar resigned; he was stingy about this.

In connection with untrue Azerbaijani press reports, a SNARK reporter asked Seyran (Shakhbugaryan), the head of the Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service, to comment on this issue. (Shakhbugaryan) stated that the military cooperation between Russia and Armenia is in line with the status of the Russian troops in Armenia. Beyond that, no arms have ever or are being dispatched.

Azerbaijani SU-25 Shot Down

NC2701182094 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1701 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Yerevan, 27 Jan (ARMENPRES)—The relative calm prevailing on Armenia's borders for the last few days was again disrupted today. The Azerbaijani Army formations shelled Sotk (former Zod) in Vardenisskiy Rayon with Grad rockets at 1730 today.

At the same time, two SU-25 warplanes belonging to the Azerbaijani Air Force violated our Republic's airspace and dropped two bombs around Sotk.

Our border guards took countermeasures and silenced the enemy, shooting down one of the two SU-25 planes.

There are no casualties but there is destruction on our side.

Firing of National Security Chief Viewed

MK2701131094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 5

[Report by David Petrosyan under the "Internal Affairs" rubric: Once Again About the Power of the Party Apparatus. On Circumstances of the Resignation of Armenia's State Security Chief"]

[Text] Armenian political quarters continue to discuss the reasons that made President Levon Ter-Petrosyan fire Eduard Simonyants, chief of the State National Security Directorate (SNSD). His duties were, quite unexpectedly for everyone, temporarily transferred to David Shakhnazaryan, the president's ambassador at large.

The need for a structural adjustment of this far from simple organization has come to a head. Interestingly enough, that has been started precisely now that the former SNSD chief seemed to have been ready to get ahead with leisurely evolutionary changes and to direct his staffers to fulfill the tasks of intelligence and counterintelligence in the interests of national security rather than to crack down on dissidents.

The opposition press has put forward various versions trying to account for this reshuffle. In particular, left-wing radical publications argue that the fired SNSD chief not only was part of the elite of the virtually ruling party, the Armenian Pan-national Movement (APM), and was one of the team of the president's chief national security adviser, Ashot Manucharyan, who resigned last summer. It is this team of the "internal" intellectual opposition that the powers that be allegedly fear most of all, and the president's moves come precisely from the desire to get rid of the stranger.

There is, however, yet another interpretation of the events. Last December, Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan tried unsuccessfully to get parliamentarians to amend the law "On the State Bank." He based his demand on the fact that only by including the head of the State Bank in the government was it possible to curb inflation and carry through reforms. Parliament staunchly beat back the premier's attack. A new idea then arose: to put in the state bank director's chair "their own man"—Bagrat Asatryan, chairman of one of the parliamentary commissions and member of the APM board. That, however, was opposed by some APM functionaries and parliamentarians who argued that Mr. Asatryan, being an economist, was not still a banking expert, whereas Mr. Isaakyan, who held this office, was a professional. Judging from some signs, the negotiations were not long: The party bosses demanded, in exchange for support in parliament, that the last "stranger" head of one of the "power" agency in Armenia be removed.

The recent session of the Armenian parliament all the same confirmed Bagrat Asatryan in the post of director of the State Bank of Armenia. APM deputies honored the terms of the deal, and the executive branch had no other option but to keep its part of the bargain.

The opposition believes that the one to gain from this resignation is, first and foremost, the "omnipotent" Internal Affairs Minister Vano Siradegyan, whose agency at last has real chances to turn into a "superministry" and to exercise even greater control over many spheres of the republic's internal life.

Local political observers nevertheless hope that David Shakhnazaryan, who has proven himself to be a serious political figure, will be able to keep his agency out of politics, and that Armenia is not threatened with "witch-hunting."

Azerbaijan

Ministry Says 200 Armenians Killed Near Goradiz

NC2701182894 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The following is the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry report for the 27 January battle situation: The Armenian units, which are trying to aggravate the situation in the southwest of our Republic, launched a new attack yesterday against Goradiz, which is a communications hub. Our soldiers fought heroically and brought the Armenians' efforts to naught. Having failed to break through our Army's lines, the enemy withdrew after losing nearly 200 men.

Our Armed Forces' units are continuing to consolidate the new positions they occupied in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. The strategically important motor roads in this area are under the control of our Army.

Official Spells Out Terms for Settlement

MK2601113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 4

[Mekhman Gafarly report under the "Talks" rubric: "Armenia and Azerbaijan Presidents' Meeting Postponed. New Date for it Not Defined Yet"]

[Text] The meeting scheduled for 25 January in Moscow between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan and mediated by the Russian president did not take place. According to V. Kazimirov, special representative of the Russian Federation president and head of the Russian peacemaking mission for the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, new dates for the meeting have not been defined yet. The Russian diplomat thinks that "meetings at such a level should be prepared in the most thorough way" and "unless preparations that would ensure a certain success of the summit are complete, it is premature to speak about concrete dates."

Until then, the mediators continue their efforts, the sides voice new proposals on resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Rakhman Mustafazade, an official in the Azerbaijan president's staff, has named the main principles of Baku's approach to this problem. First, the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories and the creation of guarantees for the safe living of the Armenian and Azeri population of Nagorno-Karabakh. Second, the repealing by Yerevan of all illegal constitutional acts and documents that describe Nagorno-Karabakh as belonging to Armenia. Third, the preservation of the cultural appearance of the occupied

territories of Azerbaijan, i.e., the renouncing by Yerevan of the policy of destruction of monuments of history and culture of the Azerbaijan people in Karabakh. In Mustafazade's view, the Yerevan officials' dragging out of the peace process within the CSCE framework promotes the actual legalization of Armenia's territorial claims.

To all appearances, Azerbaijan will hardly talk at all, having bet on a military solution to the question. The Azeri Army is strong enough today. Besides, Baku feels a weakening of the Armenian Army that began after a series of major defeats.

Armenian generals, too, admit this weakening. On the radio 24 January, Major General Arkadiy Ter-Tadevosyan, a directorate chief of Armenia's Defense Ministry, stated that "Today the country is in no position to deliver an appreciable retaliatory strike at Azerbaijan, which has been in recent days increasingly encroaching on Armenia's borders."

Georgia

Vote of No Confidence in Shevardnadze Expressed

LD2701200394 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Twelve of Georgia's political opposition parties have expressed a vote of no confidence in the head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze. They blame him for losing the war in Abkhazia and the total inability to rule the country.

The leaders of these parties also added that Eduard Shevardnadze should be divested of extraordinary powers delegated to him by the republic's parliament, which make him the sole ruler of the country and which, allegedly, hamper the opposition in participating in the "state's creative processes."

Government Calls For UN Peacekeeping in Abkhazia

LD2801074994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0716 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations Organisation January 28 TASS—Georgia is urging the U.N. Security Council to "launch a full-scale peace-keeping operation in the whole territory of the Abkhazian region," says a letter of Georgia's permanent representative at the United Nations Pyotr Chkheidze, circulated here on Thursday as a Security Council document.

According to the letter, the war in Abkhazia "has brought to a critical condition the economic situation of the Republic of Georgia and turned hundreds of thousands of people into homeless refugees. There are no visible signs that their situation is improving." The letter pointed out that this situation "may create serious preconditions for spontaneous actions on the part of 300,000 refugees and displaced persons," and may bring to naught the agreements reached by the two sides in Geneva.

"Taking into account those circustances and facing a real danger of another wave of violence in that region, the Georgian Government is urging the world community to render assistance in launching a full-scale peace-keeping operation on the whole territory of the Abkhazian region, using the U.N. force or, if this problem cannot be resolved quick enough, using any other force sanctioned by the U.N. As is known, this approach has been recorded in a communique on the second round of talks, held in Geneva," the letter said.

"Quoting provisions of the communique and taking into consideration the understanding of this request, displayed by the Russian leadership, as well as its direct interest in preventing the spreading of the conflict outside the Georgian territory and, in the long run, in the stabilisation of the situation in the whole area, the Georgian leadership is welcoming Russia's readiness to take part in the peace-keeping operation in Abkhazia with a view to attaining that goal. Contingents from other countries may be attached to Russian peace-keeping units, along with the participation of U.N. military observers, in accordance with a Security Council resolution," the Georgian representatve wrote.

UNSC Allows More Observers To Go to Georgia

LD2701182394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali advised the Security Council [UNSC] to prolong the mandate of the UN mission of observers in Georgia until 15 March 1994. It was mentioned in the speech by the UN secretary general on the situation in Abkhazia, which was circulated here in the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

It is mentioned in the speech by Butrus-Ghali that the Security Council on 4 November 1993 adopted Resolution No. 881 and approved maintaining a presence of a small UN mission of observers in Georgia until 31 January 1994 for establishing links with both of the conflicting sides as well as Russian military contingents. The Security Council decreed not to prolong the mandate of the mission beyond 31 January 1994 unless the secretary general reported to the council of considerable progress in carrying out the measures aimed at achieving a solid peace.

The Geneva memorandum of understanding signed on 1 December 1993 points to a hopeful progress in establishing a solid peace in the region, said Butrus-Ghali. It was exactly in this connection that on 22 January 1994 the Security Council adopted Resolution No. 892, said Butrus-Ghali, which gives a sanction to the United

Nations to gradually deploy about 50 additional military observers—besides the five who are already there [in Georgia].

Butrus-Ghali said: In Paris, the Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze and I thoroughly discussed the situation in Abkhazia. He asked me earnestly to give recommendations to the Security Council for a speedy deployment of the UN military observers in Abkhazia. Considering the results of my talks with Shevardnadze, I ordered my colleagues and the chief military observer of the UN observers' mission in Georgia to study the expediency of a further growth—over 55 observers—of the number of UN observers in Georgia.

Liberation Organization Demands Yeltsin Meeting

LD2801100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tenghiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Tbilisi January 28 TASS—The Liberation of Abkhazia Organization (LAO), which is well-known for its radical statements and judgements about the questions of the return of refugees to abkhazia and restoration of georgia's jurisdiction over this autonomous republic, has been functioning in Tbilisi since the past four months. It comprises 16 georgian public movements and organizations which were forced to leave the conflict zone at the end of September 1993 and are at present located in tbilisi.

The radicalism of this organization's leadership was clearly manifested during today's meeting of the LAO leadership with representatives of the parliamentary majority. On behalf of the alo its chairman Boris Kakubayev has called on Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and parliament to arrangee a meeting of LAO representatives with Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his forthcoming official visit to Tbilisi on February 3-4.

"If we are denied such ameeting, then we will be compelled to start a hunger strike in the near future at different places in Tbilisi, demanding to arrange our meeting with the president of Russia to expound our vision of the Abkhazia problem," Boris Kaubayev said. Georgian parliamentarys vice-speaker Vakhtang Rcheulishvili noted that President Yeltsin's programme of meetings in Tbilisi is not planned by the Georgian parliament, but by the president of russia himself and his team.

Boris Kakubayev's demand has evoked a contradictory reaction of those present who continued debating problems of Abkhazia and after LAO representatives and Boris Kakubayev himself left the conference hall. They explained it by the fact that the majority of deputies, comprising this parliamentary majority, had not come to the meeting. Kakubayev considered it as an indifference and lack of consideration to problems of Abkhazia.

Parliamentary Speaker Appoints Head of Staff

LD2701172694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] At the order by Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian parliament and first deputy chairman of parliament, Vasil Kacharava has been appointed head of staff of the Georgian parliament.

Vasil Kacharava, born in 1956, is a candidate of historical sciences. He recently worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Patsatsia Refutes Coup Accusations, Views Economy

AU2701125194 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 21 Jan 94 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia by Nina Ambrosova; place and date not given: "Otar Patsatsia: 'My Business Is To Serve the People....'"—all questions published in boldface]

[Text] [Ambrosova]**Batono [Georgian polite form of address] Otari, we know that you are currently very busy but you will agree that the accusation leveled against you by Bachuka Kardava, president of the young National-Democrats, is a serious one. What can you say regarding his statement?**

[Patsatsia] Unfortunately, it has become a tradition here for young people to try to acquire high positions by using the most unacceptable methods. Kardava's statement testifies to this. I am sure that, if I were to offer Kardava the post of, say, procurator in Zugdidi, he would not dare say those things. I consider the statement to be wholly without foundation and not supported by any kind of proof. Perhaps I am being reproached for the fact that, in my time, I conducted a conciliatory policy in Zugdidi. However, even today, I adhere to the same view: There are not so many of us that we should kill one another and that brother should wage war against brother. This does not signify in any way my alliance with the Zviadists. Incidentally, I agree that Zviadism is a problem that has been artificially implanted in western Georgia. Throughout my life, I have proceeded from the belief that I should serve my people and not certain individuals. I would like to ask my opponents this question: What have they themselves done for Georgia? Apart from fighting fiercely and without scruples for the top position, forgetting that there is only one such position. Are there not more important problems facing Georgia such as economic and social problems?

[Ambrosova]**In this respect, as far as we know, has Russia not granted Georgia 10 billion rubles credit? How will this money be spent?**

[Patsatsia] Some of this money has already been used to pay our debts. We have also bought gas and fuel oil. We assume that the credit will be spent on paying for fuel and energy resources that are essential so as finally to

activate industry and, at the same time, revive the economy. The means for this will be drawn in general from official long-term credits and not only those from Russia. This will enable us to implement work at the Tbilisi State Rayon Power Station that will be able to produce an additional 300 megawatts of electric power and, after putting into operation a new power bloc, to regulate the functioning of the network of Ingurskiy power stations.

[Ambrosova]**The oil-prospecting work that is already in progress in Georgia should certainly be a boost to the economy.**

[Patsatsia] Yes, you are right. In this respect, contacts have been established with Britain and Australia. In July, we are planning to install processing units at the sites. Of course, the initial extractions will be insufficient for Georgia's needs but there are great prospects for the future. In addition, exploration work is going on into new deposits in which Georgia is undoubtedly rich.

[Ambrosova]**Batono Otari, you are often called an opponent of the market economy. With what is this connected?**

[Patsatsia] This is connected with the fact that people here have a false understanding of many things, including the market economy. I am an advocate of the so-called Korean model of a state-controlled market economy. According to this model, a number of branches, those that are strategically important, should be controlled by the state. After all, if the state loses its monopoly on, for example, the food industry, how are we to exist? General privatization or rather misappropriation [prikhvatizatsiya] is taking place here, which will not bring the state anything; it is only being robbed. Ten percent of the population, in whose hands state property has been concentrated as a result of this misappropriation, has brought the entire nation to a state of impoverishment. The mafia rules here, if only as far as those coupon credits are concerned. As a result of the policy conducted by the previous government, huge sums of coupons, most of which were issued to private firms and individuals, have not brought the state a single kopeck and, what is more, most of these sums have not been returned.

[Ambrosova]**Do you think that we will be faced with the threat of total collapse if Georgia does not join the ruble zone?**

[Patsatsia] In principle, entry into the ruble zone is necessary. However, this remains just one question connected with the multitude of problems both here and in Russia. Economic relations between the countries of the former Soviet Union have changed radically. If, up to now, we have been living on subsidies, we can expect no one to feed us for free both in the CIS and the ruble zone. Yes, we will receive help with material and technical supplies. However, we will have to conduct financial policy ourselves. In order to do this, the economy has to be put back on its feet.

[Ambrosova]**For how long will our government function without being approved?**

[Patsatsia] I hope that the government will be approved within a month. I do not rule out changes in its composition. One can expect anything nowadays.

Ideology Party Leader Echoes Zhirinovskiy

AU2701180394 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 21 Jan 94 p 2

[From the "Digest" column: "Dialogue" between the newspapers SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO (Zhirinovskiy's Falcons) and ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI (Caucasian Military Gazette) containing quotations by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), and Zurab Gagnidze, chairman of the National Ideology Party of Georgia (NIPG)]

[Text] [SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "Tomorrow, we will turn off the power in the Urals and it will be dark everywhere—in the Baltic republics, the Caucasus, and Moldova. Everyone will shut up. Telegrams will be sent to the Kremlin: We surrender. Where is the Russian sanitary corps?" (Vladimir Zhirinovskiy [V.Z.])

[ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI] The NIPG was the only party in Georgia that congratulated Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on his election success. The telegram states, in particular: "The successful outcome of the elections manifested the aspiration of the Russian people toward independence. We wish you success in following this course. We hope that the victory of the LDPR will have a positive influence on the achievement of genuine freedom in Georgia...."

[SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "We have so many bacteriological and chemical weapons that we can contaminate the entire planet. We will infect everyone. We will have a crater but the whole world will perish. In two weeks...." (V.Z.)

[ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI] "Certain politologists call Zhirinovskiy a fascist out of ignorance. In actual fact, he is not a fascist but a nationalist in the best sense of the word." (Zurab Gagnidze [Z.G.], chairman of the NIPG, candidate of philosophical sciences)

[SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "Furthermore, we are not seeking praise. However, the fact that President Saddam Husayn received us as the leaders of an opposition party and did not receive anyone else—I was the first Russian received by him after the war.... He received me because a friend had arrived, a person whose position was well known. We exchanged gifts." (V.Z.)

[ZAKAVKASKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI] "I believe that Gaydar is a bigger fascist...." (Z.G.)

[SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "We can frighten [them]. I can tell you straight away: I will blackmail them. I'll tell them: If you start interfering in Russia's affairs in the south, we will take effective measures.... We already have military platforms in space. They don't know where they are. The weapons are ready there and targeted on the United States. If Yeltsin tells them that he has apparently given instructions to remove some of those weapons targeted on the United States, I, on the contrary, can tell Clinton that we have targeted all our weapons on America...." (V.Z.)

[ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI] "The LDPR is trying to preserve the national originality of its people...." "One can't help being attracted to.... The main thing is the struggle against American aggression. For a long time now, the Russian and Georgian intelligentsia have been alarmed by the spiritual expansion of the United States." (Z.G.)

[SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "Troubles for Russia have always come from the south. All corruption began in the south when Stalin created favorable conditions for his native Georgia. This despot ruled Russia for 30 years during which time Georgia became perverted and tainted with corruption that spread to Armenia and Azerbaijan and subsequently to the East and central Asia; it crept to the surface and finally engulfed the whole country." (V.Z.)

[ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI] Correspondent: "Aren't you afraid that Zhirinovskiy will carry out his promise to create the provinces of Tiflis and Kutaisi on the territory of Georgia?"

[Gagnidze] We have to understand one another and locate the painful spots....

[SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "The most effective method—perhaps the only method—of putting an end to the bloody conflicts in the south and the Near East is to create a so-called 'sanitary corridor' and, thereby, separate the irreconcilably bellicose countries. Russia is required to implement this division, a country that, in the process of historical development, has been called upon repeatedly by countries in the East to act as an arbitrator and protector (defender) of weak [states] who have been subject to the aggression of neighboring peoples. This was the case with Georgia and Turkmenistan that voluntarily attached themselves to Russia...." (V.Z.)

[ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI] "One would like to believe that all his recent assurances are sincere...." (Z.G.)

[SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "The small nations can raise an objection; they will say that they also would like to have their own states. My answer will be: You should have thought about this a few centuries ago." (V.Z.)

[ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI] "I am very sorry that Shevardnadze has refrained from giving an assessment of the victory of the liberal democrats." (Z.G.)

[SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "The ideal variant would have been to preserve the Russian empire. Some people do not like the word "empire" but I like it very much. It is a normal good word." (V.Z.)

[ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYYE VEDOMOSTI] "In such conditions, our party has every reason to rely upon the support of the broad mass of the people. Let no one be worried by our small numbers. It is not a matter of quantity. The Communist Party suffered a crisis due to the excessive increase in the number of its members. The main thing is that there is support for our party's ideology. The future is ours." (Z.G.)

[SOKOLY ZHIRINOVSKOGO] "The principal aim is the restoration of the Russian state (within the borders of the USSR)"—from the LDPR program.

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Concerned Over Churkin Comments

LD2801155694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Estonia's Foreign Ministry has expressed concern over statements made by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin at a news conference on Thursday.

In a press release issued on Friday, the Estonian ministry welcomed Churkin's "condemnation" of the 1940 events but denounced his refusal to qualify them as the annexation or occupation of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union or as a Soviet aggression against them.

"International law did not begin in 1945, as Mr. Churkin asserts," the ministry says.

It says Estonia has for a long time "shown patience and goodwill and has made many concessions in order to solve problems which it inherited from the 50 years of Soviet occupation."

The ministry says the fact that Russian officials have completely ignored Estonia's efforts and have instead made a series of propaganda attacks and poorly concealed threats does not serve to strengthen trust or ensure stability.

Parliament Fails To Agree on Response to Kozyrev

WS2701212494 Tallinn BNS in English 1844 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, Jan 27, BNS—The Estonian parliament today discussed the text of a statement concerning Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's speech, which 30 legislators submitted on Jan. 19.

Kozyrev's remarks defined the Baltic states as belonging in Russia's sphere of influence and justified a continued illegal presence of Russian troops in Estonian territory.

Vello Saatpalu, chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Commission, proposed to wind up the discussion and prepare a new statement. Several MPs expressed their dissatisfaction with the parliament's standing rules under which urgent issues cannot be added to the agenda, and referred to the example of the Lithuanian parliament, which reacted to Kozyrev's speech the same day it was delivered. The Estonian parliament failed to reach a decision today because the time ran out and the legislators did not agree to prolong the session. [passage omitted]

No Progress Reported in Preparations for Summit

WS2701170694 Tallinn BNS in English 1336 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 27, BNS—Next to no progress has been achieved in recent months in preparing the Estonian-Russian summit, Foreign Ministry Chancellor Alar Olljum told BNS.

Russia made an official proposal for a meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and President Lennart Meri last autumn. The summit was then expected to take place in November or December.

Olljum reiterated that the meeting between the presidents can take place only after the principal issues of the Estonian-Russian relations have been resolved. He had in mind in the first place the setting of the final deadline for the Russian troop withdrawal.

"From the first, we were not sure the summit could soon take place," Olljum told BNS. "It was primarily Russia's statement that sparked interest in the press."

Olljum voiced hope that the troop withdrawal deadline—Aug. 31—proposed by Russia will be officially confirmed at the upcoming meeting between the Russian and the Estonian delegations next week.

Estonia agreed to the deadline in principle but will not accept any strings.

When Russia for the first time suggested the August deadline last autumn, it made a number of stipulations concerning "social protection" of Russians residing in Estonia, money for housing construction, and other issues.

Olljum expressed the opinion this was a "propagandistic step."

Chancellor Views Reactor Dismantling Conference

WS2801103894 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0744 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From 28 January HOMMIKULEHT, RAHVA HAAL, pp 1,2]

[Text] Friday, January 28—Russia will agree to the involvement of the international experts only after the removal of the fuel rods from the Paldiski reactor, Foreign Ministry Chancellor Alar Olljum announced after returning from an international conference in Stockholm dedicated to the dismantling of the reactors.

The removal of the fuel has been practically agreed upon and it should be completed between April and July, he said. Russia has decided to complete it without international aid, referring to state secrets, he added.

The conference failed to agree on the guarantees of safety during the removal and transportation of the fuel rods, Olljum said, explaining that Russia's equipment either

fails to meet the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] requirements or has been classified. Olljum added that Estonia may ban the removal operations in case of doubts in its safety, but such moves could be misunderstood. However, the process should be monitored by Estonian and foreign experts, the chancellor said.

Most problems should be discussed at the next round of the Estonian-Russian negotiations, Olljum told the press. But he added that practically no progress had been made in the preparations of the intended Estonian-Russian summit meeting. The meeting would only be possible after the settling of the deadline for the Russian troops withdrawal, Olljum said.

Meeting Held on Common Concerns With Latvia

WS2801103994 Tallinn EESTI RINGVAADE in English 28 Jan 94 Vol.4 No.4-2

[Received via Internet BALT-L]

[Text] January 25—Estonian and Latvian ministers for Internal Affairs met in Riga, Latvia, for discussions on co-ordinating the activities of their ministries.

The meeting, a constructive attempt to foster closer co-operation, covered such issues as the continued presence and activities of Russian troops in Latvia and Estonia, combating crime and the operation and organisation of their respective ministries.

Latvia and Estonia face similar problems in their attempts to curb crime, said Latvian Interior Ministry's State Secretary, Andris Staris. The discussions underlined the need for information exchange between the countries in the level of ministers and department heads to be more effective in combating the problems. The ministers also agreed to coordinate their activities on the CIS Internal Affairs Ministers' conference at which Estonian and Latvia maintain observer status.

Prosecution of LDPR Representative Rozhok Sought

PM2701162594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[Report by Leonid Levitskiy: "Estonia Wants To Prosecute LDPR Representative"]

[Text] Tallinn—Estonian Justice Minister Kaido Kama has called for proceedings to be instituted against Petr Rozhok, the representative of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] in Estonia.

The minister considers his activity hostile and aimed against the Estonian state. Juri Pihl, general director of the security police, replied to the minister through the press. He confirmed that Rozhok has an LDPR party card. There are around 20 members of this party in Estonia.

Finance Minister Named Representative to EBRD

WS2701175994 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1411 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Estonia's Government appointed new Finance Minister Heiki Kranich the country's representative at the boards of governors of the European Bank for Development and Reconstruction (EBRD) and the World Bank. [passage omitted]

Kranich was also appointed Estonian coordinator at economic cooperation programmes with the Commission of the European Communities and G-24.

1994 Plan Calls For Faster Privatization

WS2701210894 Tallinn BNS in English 1609 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 27, BNS—The Estonian Government attaches this year great importance to speeding up the privatization of industrial enterprises, giving top priority to selling agricultural processing firms and timber, chemical and construction companies.

The Cabinet's privatization program for 1994 stipulates that, first of all, the enterprises on which offers have been made are to be put on the privatization list.

The government regards bidding, bidding combined with negotiations, and public sale of shares as the principal methods of privatization. The main criterion of choice is the need for additional conditions such as investments and job retention.

The Cabinet plans to use more widely public bidding.

The government considers it necessary to start this year privatization through public sale of shares. The state will retain an average of 25 percent of the capital stock, which is later to be sold for the privatization vouchers.

The sale of enterprises' shares for privatization vouchers is to begin not later than the second half of the year. The vouchers will be used also in selling property and controlling blocks of stock, when a part of the purchase price set by the Privatization Agency will have to be paid in money.

The government is of the opinion that no restrictions must be applied to the privatization process and it must be maximally open. The participation of local businessmen in the process is to be promoted by the application of favorable installment payment conditions, privatization vouchers, and Article 32 of the privatization law.

Second Consignment of Arms Received From Israel

PM2701155394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 7

[Report by Galina Sapozhnikova: "Shalom, Estonia"]

[Text] Tallinn—A second consignment of Israeli weapons has arrived in Estonia for the use of the national defense forces. The sub-machine guns, pistols, and anti-aircraft guns and missiles in question cost Estonia $60 million. Israel has pledged to supply weapons until the end of 1995 and Estonia will pay for them before the year 2000. This deal once caused a scandal in parliament because the contract for the supply of such a costly consignment of weapons was kept secret. Government officials quickly came up with a justification: The accelerated withdrawal of the Russian troops was, it is claimed, linked specifically to the appearance of "Uzi" sub-machine guns in the Estonian army. Our lads took fright and left.

Latvia

President Urges Referendum on Fate of Skrunda

WS2701211794 Tallinn BNS in English 1844 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Riga, Jan 27, BNS—Latvia should stage a referendum to decide on the fate of the Russian-operated radar station in Skrunda, the Baltic nation's President Guntis Ulmanis told local authorities in the Ludza town.

MPs cannot not assume the enormous responsibility for the future and the health of people in Latvia if the problem is as important as the Skrunda issue is, Ulmanis said Jan. 26.

Latvia has evidence of new-type radiation across its territory what could be aimed at determining movements of space objects, Ulmanis said. In his opinion, Russia is looking for new ways to control the airspace above Europe and Latvia.

If the guesses prove right, Latvia could possibly attain reduction of the term for the preservation of the radar station, the president said.

As reported, Russia wants to keep the radar for five more years. If Latvia agrees to this condition, Russia will complete the withdrawal of its troops by September, said Russian delegation head Sergei Zotov.

Cabinet May Resign if Budget Passed

WS2701211294 Tallinn BNS in English 1609 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Riga, Jan 27, BNS—Latvia's Cabinet will resign if the parliament adopts a needy budget that will soar inflation and force the government into borrowing money from the Bank of Latvia, Finance Minister Uldis Osis told BNS Thursday.

The government agrees to redivision of some of the planned spendings but it rejects attempts to hike the budget shortfall to a limit that will provoke heavy inflation, said Osis.

The government bases its work on the two principal criteria, the priority of economic development and reforms, and the macroeconomic stabilization, the minister said.

"If the increased budget deficit causes inflation and undermines the macroeconomic stability I will be the first to retire," Osis said.

The government's resignation is inevitable then because it will not be able to follow the course of reforms in compliance with the distorted budget plan.

On the other hand, there are no other political forces in Latvia that could set up a tenable government, Osis said. [passage omitted]

The Latvian Saeima [parliament] is considering the budget plan in its current plenary session.

Paper Outlines Armed Forces' Current Strength

PM2701161594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Gromak: "Relying on NATO.... Will Draft New Regulations Help Real Strengthening of Latvian Armed Forces?"]

[Text] Riga—The Latvian Defense Ministry has prepared new regulations for drafting people into active military service. They envisage reducing the categories of citizens who are exempt from compulsory military service.

Currently there are 6,500 people serving in the Latvian Armed Forces, 550 of them officers. These figures break down as follows: There are 1,500 enlisted men and 150 officers serving in the Army, 3,800 enlisted men and 340 officers in the Border Guard, 600 seamen and 30 officers in the Navy, and 150 enlisted men and 30 officers in the Air Force.

The Latvian Navy has 15 ships and combat craft, of which six are undergoing repair and two are mothballed. The Air Force has two An-2 aircraft, two L-410 transporters, and six Mi-2 helicopters. One aircraft and four helicopters are combat ready.

Latvia wants to guarantee its national security primarily by joining NATO. As we know, to date these efforts have not been successful. And some news agencies report that the Latvian Government has decided to allocate funds to buy two Russian Mi-8 helicopters....

Lithuania

President Signs 'Partnership for Peace' Pact

WS2701164994 Tallinn BNS in English 1336 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Brussels, Jan 27,—Lithuania signed up for NATO's new limited partnership plan Thursday [27 January], becoming the first former Soviet republic to embrace the deal.

Before signing the partnership document at the NATO headquarters, President Algirdas Brazauskas, stressed Lithuania's plans to eventually join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"As she begins her participation in the 'Partnership for Peace' program, Lithuania has a clear goal of becoming a fully-fledged NATO member," Brazauskas told ambassadors of the 16 NATO nations.

That aim could bring a clash with Russia, Lithuania's mighty neighbor and former ruler.

Moscow opposes any eastward expansion of the Western military alliance and reacted with alarm earlier this month, when Lithuania became the first of its former Warsaw Pact satellites to formally apply for NATO membership.

President Boris Yeltsin's press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov warned then that Lithuania's move could provoke "a negative reaction in Russian public opinion" and play into the hands of the country's extreme nationalists.

Brazauskas sought to allay Russian fears.

"Lithuania's position regarding NATO membership is not directed against any neighboring or other European states," he said in a speech at NATO headquarters.

The integration of Eastern European nations into NATO and other Western structures would "significantly support the strengthening and continuity of democratic processes in Russia," he added.

Lithuania became the second former Warsaw Pact state to accept the "Partnership for Peace" offer made earlier in the month at a summit of alliance leaders. Romania signed up on Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Brazauskas echoed the determination of other leaders that the partnership must be a step toward membership—not a replacement for it.

"I imagine that this initiative does not completely satisfy every state that is striving for closer proximity to or membership of NATO," he said.

"It is a compromise plan."

Under the partnership proposal, the East Europeans must share information about defense budgets and defense forces, promise civilian control over the military and standardize weapons systems.

Each nation is expected to work out a specific work plan with the allies, tailored to its needs and capabilities.

Further on Signing

LD2701164494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Report by correspondent Audrius Baciulis from Brussels]

[Excerpt] President Algirdas Brazauskas signed the documents of a new NATO program—an invitation and a declaration on the Partnership for Peace—in Brussels today.

According to this act, Lithuania has the right to take part in all the events and projects of the Partnership for Peace program. Lithuania has become the second Eastern European state to join this NATO program. The documents of Partnership for Peace were signed by the Romanian foreign minister yesterday.

Brazauskas arrived in Brussels today from Holland, together with Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys and Minister of National Defense Linas Linkevicius. At noon Lithuanian time, he was welcomed at the entrance to the NATO headquarters in Brussels by Ambassador Amadeo de Franchis, acting NATO general secretary, and Adolfas Venckus, Lithuanian ambassador at the European Union. After a brief conversation with de Franchis, Brazauskas went to the oval NATO hall, where 16 NATO members were waiting.

In his welcoming speech, de Franchis said that NATO was pleased at this decision by Lithuania and stressed that Article 8 of the Partnership for Peace provides that, if there is a threat to the state taking part in the Partnership for Peace program, to the security and independence of that state, NATO would begin intensive consultations with that state. Active participation by Lithuania in the Partnership for Peace program would step up its rapprochement to NATO. The ambassador of Belgium—which represents Lithuania's interests in NATO—(?Gering) said that the idea that Lithuania should come closer to NATO emerged in this organization as early as September of 1992, after a speech by Vytautas Landsbergis at the North Atlantic Assembly. The Danish ambassador stressed that the Partnership for Peace has been created, not in place of NATO membership, but as a direct path to it. NATO, for its part, will do everything to see that this process develops successfully.

In a reply speech, delivered in English, Brazauskas stressed that Lithuania's security is indivisible from European security. It is best ensured by joining European structures—above all, the European Union and NATO. Lithuania will strive to become a member of these organizations. Lithuania welcomes the Partnership for Peace program, but Brazauskas thought that it did not satisfy the requirements of states striving to become NATO members. This is a compromise solution oriented toward the future. He stressed that Lithuania, as already stated in a letter to Manfred Woerner, is striving to become a full NATO member. Lithuania supports

common aims by the Baltic states to integrate in Europe and will do everything for the further integration of the Baltic states.

Brazauskas also stressed that Lithuania, according to international standards, demands a complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Russian Army from the Baltic states. Russia's statements about the near abroad and about its rights to maintain peace on the former Soviet Union's territory have nothing in common with the international law and the Partnership for Peace program.

Brazauskas expressed his belief, in conclusion, that a day will come when the Lithuanian president will sign in this hall a document stating that Lithuania has become a full NATO member. [passage omitted]

Januska Heads Development Program

LD2701165294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The information and press department of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has announced that the Lithuanian Government decided to form a working group to prepare a program for Partnership for Peace. Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska has been appointed head of the group.

Premier Wants To Meet Kebich; Views Change

WS2701211194 Tallinn BNS in English 1609 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 27, BNS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said he needs to meet with his Belarusian counterpart Vyacheslav Kebich.

Kebich survived a no confidence vote in the Belarussian parliament Wednesday [26 January], but the Belarusian lawmakers managed to oust Parliament Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich.

Commenting on the developments in Minsk, Slezevicius told reporters Thursday that the search for solutions to several disputed problems, like the Adutiskis railroad station, has stopped and experts have "used up their ability" to deal with these matters.

The Lithuanian premier said he is glad that Lithuania joins NATO's Partnership for Peace program. "We want Lithuania to be among the first in this field, and this is a very important step in enhancing security and considering Kozyrev's (Russian foreign minister) statements."

Commenting on the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party's proposal to take a no confidence vote in the government, Slezevicius said the initiative is a "normal action...and the right of all politicians and political parties."

The premier said the social democrats simply try "to attract attention to a petty party that is poorly represented in the parliament."

Slezevicius said the earlier governments failed to stabilize the economy and to stop crime.

Premier on Growing Tension in Ties With Russia

LD2701202394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2009 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius January 27 TASS—"I regret to say that at present certain tension has emerged in relations between Lithuania and Russia," Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said.

Speaking about Russian-Lithuanian trade and economic relations at a news conference in Vilnius on Thursday, Slezevicius also expressed "regret that Moscow has so far failed to respond to our note on the enactment of the agreement on most-favoured nation status in trade which was signed in November last year during Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Vilnius."

The Lithuanian premier also said that the talks on Russian military transit from the Kaliningrad region to Russia through Lithuania are moving very slowly.

Seimas:'Harsher' Russian Statements 'Threat' to Peace

WS2701143694 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 22 Jan 94 No. 15 p 1

[Statement issued by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in Vilnius on 20 January: "On Russia's Policy Toward the Baltic States"]

[Text] Assessing the developments in Russia and its foreign policy, the Seimas [parliament] of the Republic of Lithuania notes with concern that recent statements by some Russian officials concerning the Baltic states have taken on a harsher tone. The words of Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev about Russia's defense interests in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, which are constantly called "the near abroad countries," and about a possible suspension of the Russian Army withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia confirm this. No ambiguous maneuvers can reduce the negative meaning of these words.

The presence of the Russian Army in the Baltic states and the delay in its withdrawal not only increase instability in Latvia and Estonia and create possibilities for conflicts and provocations there, but also endangers Lithuania's security. All of this shows that Russia ignores signed international agreements and documents and, through this, poses a threat to world peace and stability.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania expresses great concern over Russia's current policy toward the Baltic states and hopes, at the same time, that processes of democratization will continue there, and that Russia will respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Baltic states.

[Signed] Ceslovas Jursenas, chairman of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
[Dated] 20 January 1994

IMF Concerned About Inflation, Monetary Policy

WS2801131494 Tallinn BNS in English 1043 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 28, BNS—The International Monetary Fund is concerned about the increasing rate of inflation in Lithuania, which resulted from the monetary policy carried out by the Lithuanian central bank, Adalbert Knoebl, head of the IMF's Baltic Department, said at a press conference in Vilnius Thursday [27 January].

He said active development of the Lithuanian economy is unlikely if inflation is not stopped. The fund will try to persuade the Lithuanian central bank to carry out a tighter monetary policy, he said.

Knoebl criticized the bank for buying too much hard currency and exceeding the permissible limit of cash in circulation. According to the Lithuanian economic policy memorandum, the amount of cash in circulation must not rise above 1,100 million lits by March 31, but 1,266 million are in circulation already.

Knoebl said the fund began consultation with the Lithuanian Government and the central bank on ways of continuing Lithuanian economic reforms. Both sides are now working on a long-term economic policy memorandum for Lithuania. The new memorandum would cover a period of three years and would come into effect at the end of this year, he said.

Knoebl said the memorandum should include strict requirements that would accelerate Lithuania's transition to a market economy. The IMF official said Lithuania's primary tasks are to carry out a number of structural rearrangements, to speed up privatization, to reform enterprises and to reorganize the financial sector.

Knoebl said it is extremely important to stabilize the economy even more, because, in his opinion, the economy started to recover. The official statistics does not properly reflect private businesses, he said.

In March, the IMF Board intends to discuss Lithuania's adherence to the economic policy memorandum. The fund's mission, led by Knoebl, came to Lithuania to collect information for a report that will be presented to the IMF Board.

LDDP Member Views Relations With Poland

WS2801125094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 18 Jan 94 No. 11 p 5

[Article by Seimas and Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, LDDP, member Bronislovas Genzelis: "The Development of Lithuanian-Polish Relations"]

[Excerpts] I think that the development of friendly relations with Poland is one of the most pressing goals of our foreign policy. We should seek the signing of the interstate agreement and the declaration on goodneighborly relations in the immediate future. This way, we would lay a firm foundation for the coming generations and leave the former misunderstandings to history. [passage omitted]

Poland's current government is favorable to Lithuania, and it understands our problems. Conditions for normalizing the misunderstandings inherited from history are emerging. This process requires mutual goodwill. Unfortunately, there are certain forces both in Lithuania and Poland wishing to open past wounds and plot new conflicts. For example, during their recent visits to Warsaw, Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] Chairman C. Jursenas and Prime Minister A. Slezevicius met with almost all Polish leaders, Sejm factions and committees. Those meetings did not raise any demands similar to those which were unexpectedly put forward by 82 Polish Sejm members. We suppose that this was done on the initiative of some Lithuanian Poles' Union leaders, while the esteemed deputies of the Polish Sejm did not familiarize themselves with the situation.

If one side denies the existence of uninterested forces in its country and searches for them at its neighbor's place, it will be difficult to reach an agreement. This would immediately cause its mistrust in the other side and doubts about the latter's goodwill. One side must respect the law of the other.

Under the Lithuanian law, no sections of foreign organizations can operate on its territory. This law is not directed against Poland in particular. When we voted for it in the Supreme Council, we saw the threat of Russian imperialists. The latter were trying to set up branches of their political organizations in Lithuania at that time, which posed a threat to its statehood.

Laws restricting wishes of one neighbor and having no significance to the other are impossible in a democratic country. There had been attempts to establish a Russian university and other organizations in Lithuania. Such ideas were abandoned later. Currently, we do not notice Russia's attempts to set up any organizations in our country, although the threat to our independence has not disappeared. I wish our friends, the Poles, realized these subtleties.

I would also like the Polish community to understand the reasons for disbanding the self-governments in the Vilnius and Salcininkai regions. Those self-governments declared unequivocally that they did not recognize Lithuania's independence or abide by Lithuanian law, and that they considered themselves part of the USSR. Their actions can be considered nothing short of a revolt against Lithuania's lawful government.

Politicians must always behave responsibly everywhere. They must always remember that each tactless move may result in broad comments. The actions of some

officials from the Polish Embassy in Vilnius arouse many emotions. I do not doubt the good intentions of these officials. However, I cannot help noting that the meeting of the Polish ambassador with journalists on New Year's eve evoked an unfavorable reaction. This meeting was interpreted as the ambassador's attempt to teach our journalists what, where and when they should write about Poland. Meetings between Polish Embassy employees and local officials of the Polish nationality from the Vilnius region held without our government's consent also invoke negative attitudes. I think that such events should be abandoned or at least coordinated with our officials, the more so that separate Polish citizens arrive in Lithuania and try to negate its statehood. I would not like to attach great importance to these facts, however, I cannot help mentioning them.

Thus, we must outline the future ways for our countries' rapprochement. It might be expedient to think about closer cooperation with other states as well, for example, Belarus, Ukraine, the Visegrad group, and so on.

We must think more about the future. The neighboring empire [Russia] which inflicted suffering on us, has been shattered slightly, but it has not yet collapsed. It would be naive of us not to feel its threat. [passage omitted]

LDDP Faction Head on Ties With Opposition

WS2601121594 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 7 Jan 94 No. 4 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Justinas Karosas, chairman of the LDDP faction in the Seimas, by Gintautas Kniuksta in Vilnius; date not given: "J. Karosas: 'I Will Never Admit That We Are Making Concessions to the Opposition...'"

[Excerpts] [Kniuksta]**One would like to speak about something pleasant and bright in the beginning of the new year. The current period is not indulgent to you, politicians. Talk about the party's split and extremely categorical statements by some of its members show that something is wrong in the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] family as well. Might I be wrong?**

[Karosas] The situation in the LDDP family, as you put it, is the same as in our society. Over those 50 years, we have acquired a bad habit of saying that everything used to be all right everywhere.

Western parliamentarians even fight among themselves. Discussions in the legislature is a completely normal phenomenon. [passage omitted] The difference of opinions is a sign of the community's democratization.

Another issue is that Seimas' [parliament] activities will not be effective until we develop a critical approach toward ourselves and overcome personal ambitions. I think that the Seimas' work last year was satisfactory. However, I would like the legislature to make greater progress over the next year.

[Kniuksta]**Nevertheless, let us recall Vytautas Petkevicius' statements, Vytautas Bubnys' withdrawal from the LDDP faction, and the conference of LDDP members in the Klaipeda region. Might you have underrated those people? Might you have not proposed some higher positions to them? By the way, do you agree that the LDDP faction has some casual people who do not, perhaps, deserve their status of Seimas members? Certainly, this is an internal party problem. Believe me, however, that it interests the community as well.**

[Karosas] All of us are casual people in the Seimas to a certain extent. Many of us did not intend to become professional politicians. We were just fated to become so.

Disagreements had to come out sooner or later, because since the very beginning, our party has had not only moderate members but also militant or more radically oriented ones. The latter imagine that a democratic state can be created by resolute and extreme actions. Some of them often proposed to change employees in self-governments immediately, in a word, to make serious changes, forgetting that in a normal community employees can be dismissed only in line with the law. I understand the legitimate anger of some people. They were painfully mistreated, blackmailed, and laid off by the former government. Now they are demanding the same treatment for those who did that. However, someone must rise above this rage and think how to lay the foundation for our democratic state. I suppose that we must undertake this mission. This orientation has a perspective and meets the standards of a civilized and democratic community.

I hope that the new majority that will come after the next elections will discontinue this type of behavior. It will abide by the law, recognize that one ruling party replaces another, and so on. I do not claim that there is no irresolution in the activities of our party, but I speak out against the arbitrary restructuring of government institutions by ignoring the law and forgetting that such actions will wind up the coil of hatred. A democratic state cannot be created in such a manner.

[Kniuksta]**By the way, the LDDP is being reprimanded for lack of resolution. Do you agree that your party is continuing the chain of mistakes begun by Sajudis? I have heard in Samogitia [Lithuania's northwestern part] that the LDDP works as though it lived in 1988 and tries to flatter the opposition. However, nothing good will come out of this friendship because V. Landsbergis' tactics are very clear.**

[Karosas] I understand those opponents who think and talk like this. Unfortunately, the current opposition is not that of a democratic community. It follows the principle "the worse the better" and does its best to implement it. They think that this will help them to win more political capital.

Let us remember the opposition's behavior after our victory in the elections. Its high-ranking members were travelling throughout the world and spreading the thought that communists were returning to power, that Soviet socialism would be restored, that no foreigner

would invest in Lithuania, and so on. [passage omitted] This is an open sabotage of state interests and a damage to its prestige. Party interests are never raised above the state in normal society.

The opposition forgets that its blackmailing statements or actions are damaging to the state's interests. I will never admit that we are making concessions to the opposition. We simply want to stop winding the coil of hatred which I have already mentioned. The fact that a party has its majority in the Seimas and its government does not mean that such authorities are agreeable to all society. The majority rule cannot be identified with the state and society, because about one-third of the Lithuanian people voted for the opposition. Certainly, it is totally abnormal when officials, who are our political opponents, openly ignore Seimas laws or government resolutions.

We have not yet managed to reach an agreement with the opposition because the latter imagines that a consensus would be ruinous to it. A consensus would be useful to the state, and thus, to the ruling party as well. All this is unacceptable to the opposition.

We are forced to follow the principle of the so-called "voting machine." We have no other option if we want to do something beneficial for the state. However, we cannot ignore the opposition, and a certain search for a dialogue is essential. Another issue is that our success here is rather poor, and this irritates people.

However, we must overcome this hostility. If we turned away from the opposition, we would create a totalitarian rather than a democratic state. By the way, the opposition has simply provoked us since the very first days of Seimas' work. [passage omitted]

[Kniuksta] Thus, the LDDP is forced to maneuver, although some people assess such tactics differently.

[Karosas] [passage omitted] One of the more prominent achievements of our moderate policies or maneuvering is that the division of society has almost disappeared today. This success cannot be denied.

When two years ago we went to rural districts, people would speak only about Brazauskas, Landsbergis, and other politicians. We hear something completely different today: They usually raise specific everyday problems. If we had not pursued such moderate policies, we would again have two distinct camps today. Therefore, I understand the opposition's pressure on television. By taking advantage of a million-strong public, it would be possible to incite people again and engage in overall negation of any positive sides of the current government.

[Kniuksta] **By the way, some of your opponents also admit this. Tensions have eased after the elections, and the constant search for enemies has disappeared. It is enough to remember the speeches of the former Supreme Council chairman [Landsbergis] about crawling coups, revolutions, packs of dogs, and so on. However, can a situation with strikes and pickets of teachers, medical workers, and farmers be called stable?**

[Karosas] This stability is fragile. However, I think that everyone would agree that prices in stores do not change each day. This is incomparable with what we had six months or a year ago. Finally, let us take hot water and heating. These are also the signs of stability. Certainly, these are only the first signs, and we have nothing much to rejoice in. Life, albeit poor, is more stable, and people have some hope in the future at least.

Strikes and pickets occur throughout the world. They are especially attractive to people who have left the socialist camp. Formally, these people dissociate themselves from socialism, but actually they want it. Recent sociological studies show that only 6 percent of those polled believe that they are themselves responsible for their lives. All others accuse the Seimas, the president, and the government, rather than themselves. They want the state to take care of them, plan prices, crops, and so on.

The most interesting thing is that this socialism is also advocated by the conservatives or our opposition. For example, Mr. G. Vagnorius' proposals concerning the indexation of incomes and agriculture clearly demonstrate that the conservatives want socialism. What a paradox!

The worst thing is that strikes and pickets are extremely politicized. [passage omitted]

Behaving in this manner, it is as though the opposition does not understand that the disruption of political stability is dangerous to Lithuania, particularly against the background of the recent events in Russia. For example, the conservatives' congress declares the idea of early elections, while Zhirinovskiy wins the elections in Russia a week later. The destabilization encouraged by our opposition coincides with similar processes in Russia, which is extremely dangerous to the state.

Finally, what does the unstable situation mean to foreign investors? Lithuania's prestige is low as it is, while we want to continue to shake it with strikes and so on. How can we say that the conservatives help the state if they tolerate and encourage such acts?

[Kniuksta] **Let us go back to the economy. Memorandums are in fashion today. The liberals also write them. In their opinion, LDDP's economic policy ruins the hope for economic reform in the country. The LDDP which won the elections by the majority of farmers' votes ignores their interests.**

[Karosas] The liberals have already received one bitter lesson during the previous elections by demonstrating the idea of pure liberalism typical of the late 20th century. It seems that this was not enough for them. They are proposing pure liberalism as the greatest achievement and the clearest doctrine forgetting our reality and the fact that the current free market is a social market. By the way, some liberals, angry with their defeat in the elections, criticize us for socialism, while the social democrats accuse us of liberalism.

We, as social democrats, are told that LDDP policies are not social democratic. However, the social democratic policy can be implemented only in an efficient social economy of a free market. [passage omitted]

We are only creating an economic foundation for society based on a social market, which is a necessary condition in implementing the principles of social democracy. Therefore, the state must look for provisional options. We engage in discussion with farmers who sometimes drag us into the planned economy which has no future. However, we cannot reject their request to regulate certain issues.

Farmers were instructed for many years what to grow and how much. Last spring, the government rendered much assistance to farmers, but this support returned as a stone to its garden. Farmers said that we had helped them to sow the crop but that we did not want to buy it. Such "clashes" are likely to occur many times.

People must get accustomed to the "do-it-yourself" principle. We understand perfectly well, however, that the state and its institutions must help people in the transitional period. Certainly, certain "clashes" between the state and the people are inevitable. However, when the state does not do something, people themselves must undertake it. [passage omitted]

[Kniuksta] **We hear from the same people that the LDDP is doing nothing, that it is drifting down the stream, and that all achievements are spontaneous.**

[Karosas] I think that the element of spontaneity is a normal social condition, but I do not agree with the thought that the LDDP is doing nothing. Last year, we created the basis for the continuation of economic reform and restrained inflation. We know that A. Slezevicius' government inherited some debts—$43 and $28 million for gas and nuclear fuel, respectively. The government paid off these debts over a short period of time and created conditions for the normalization of gas deliveries and the production of electric energy. Does this say nothing?

[Kniuksta]**I think that the future of industry is very problematic. Although still breathing, industry is clearly dying.**

Let us take the system of education, for example. It is obvious that there are too many higher educational establishments in Lithuania, but not in the sense that Lithuania has enough educated people. We simply cannot afford so many higher schools. The same applies to the national defense system. True, Mr. Landsbergis holds a different opinion on these problems. I say to him: "How can I invite 100 guests if I have only one refrigerator of food. Will I not look ridiculous?" The professor replies that there must be three refrigerators full of food. From where can we take them?

Many structures of our young state were created according to the principle "we must have the same as in the West." Since a drop in production was catastrophic, the burden of supporting such expensive structures became heavier on taxpayers. [passage omitted]

[Kniuksta] **The Council of the Citizens' Charter maintains that the interests of the ruling LDDP dominate radio and television programs. In my opinion, LDDP's propaganda is insufficient. The LDDP underrates the power of the mass media and advocates its activities too little. Another thing is when some mass media have a liking for a particular political force....**

[Karosas] Yes, we advocate the ideas of our party and the state insufficiently. We did not care about this when we began our work in the Seimas. Now we are trying to speak on the radio and write more articles. Many opponents still imagine that the ruling force has newspapers, television, and radio in its hands. However, the mass media themselves choose sources of information in democratic society.

I think, and people will agree with me, that we hear more representatives of the right-wing opposition on radio and television today. The worst thing is that we lack official information about the government's work even in the state-supported mass media. [passage omitted]

It is useless to try to change something immediately. Much time will pass until we develop people's political culture. This cannot be achieved by administrative measures. On the other hand, it is abnormal when some papers defile the president elected by the nation, or when the chief of television prevents the director of the Statistics Department from addressing the public and familiarizing it with official data about the country's economic and financial condition.

[Kniuksta] **What are your personal relations with Vytautas Landsbergis?**

[Karosas] We maintain certain official relations. I do not like to characterize my political opponent and I consider it to be incorrect. I can only say that no politician, if he is democratically oriented, should assume the role of a messiah, the only true defender of independence. If a politician lacks self-criticism, and if he sees only mistakes in the behavior of others, he will inevitably raise himself above the rest and will readily or unwillingly assume the position of the father of a nation or a state. Nor do I like Machiavellian politicians.

[Kniuksta] **How are you preparing for the elections to self-government councils? By the way, how do you assess the elections in Kaisiadorys [elections did not take place due to low voter turnout]? Have you learned any lessons?**

[Karosas] The elections have shown that people have become less politicized and that they cannot be bought with political chatter. People are beginning to understand that impossible things cannot really be accomplished. We are moving from the politicized stage in the community's life to the economy. Therefore, the force that will propose comprehensible and realistic measures for the resolution of problems will win the elections. I think that our government has possibilities to resolve the problems over the remaining three years in such a way that would increase our prestige during the next elections. [passage omitted]

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.